



Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-90-023
Friday
2 February 1990

Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-90-023

CONTENTS

2 February 1990

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Babyev Interviewed on Military Budget Cuts [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Feb]	1
Warsaw Pact Commander Interviewed on Prospects [Moskovskiy, TASS]	2
Special CW Committee Ends Work in Geneva [TASS]	3

WORLDWIDE ISSUES

TASS Summary of Gerasimov 1 Feb Briefing	4
Progress With U.S. Supported	4
Honorary Consuls Restored	5
U.S. Charge of Spying in Liberia Denied	5
Human Rights Conference Opens in Moscow [PRAVDA 1 Feb]	5
Moscow Conference Discusses Human Rights [TASS]	6
ANGOP Cited on U.S. Aid to UNITA [TASS]	6
International Law Association Meeting Ends [PRAVDA 1 Feb]	7

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

United States & Canada

U.S. Proposal Termed 'Step in Right Direction' [AFP]	8
Moscow Dailies on 'State of Union' Message	8
IZVESTIYA 2 Feb	8
PRAVDA 2 Feb	9
SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 2 Feb	9
Moscow TV Comments on 'New U.S. Initiative'	10
CNN Head Admits Resignation Report 'Rumor' [TASS]	10
U.S. Reaction to Resignation Rumor Examined [IZVESTIYA 2 Feb]	10
Vorontsev, Matlock Discuss Jewish Immigration [TASS]	11
Comparison of Zaykov-Matlock Discussion	11

Northeast Asia

U.S. Refutes Reports of Troop Cuts in Japan [TASS]	11
Shevardnadze Receives Outgoing DPRK Envoy [PRAVDA 31 Jan]	12
Rogachev Meets DPRK Disarmament Official [TASS]	12
South Korean Party Leader Seeks Closer Ties [TASS]	12
Titarenko on Relations With South Korea [Moscow International]	13
Sakhalin Ship Rescues South Korean Sailors [PRAVDA 31 Jan]	14

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Anniversary of Vietnamese Relations Marked	14
Leadership Extends Greetings [PRAVDA 30 Jan]	14
SRV Sends Greetings [PRAVDA 30 Jan]	14
Foreign Ministers Exchange Messages [IZVESTIYA 30 Jan]	15
Rogachev, SRV Envoy Speak [Moscow International]	15
Ambassador Gives Address [Moscow TV]	16
Zaykov Attends Reception [PRAVDA 31 Jan]	17
Vo Chi Cong Gives Interview [PRAVDA 30 Jan]	17
Alekseyev Comments on Event [Moscow International]	18
Envoy Says No Soviet Arms to Cambodia Since Dec [AFP]	18
Zorin on Khmer Rouge Resurgence, U.S. Policy [Moscow International]	19

Near East & South Asia

Bovin Reviews Mail on Arab-Israeli Conflict	[IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]	20
Comparison—Shevardnadze-Singh Meeting		22

Sub-Saharan Africa

Status of Ethiopian Conflict, Talks Reviewed	[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 23 Jan]	22
Ethiopian Rebel Shipping Attacks Discussed	[Moscow International]	23

East Europe

SED-PDS Chairman Gysi Pays Working Visit		24
Comments on Party Ties	[TASS]	24
Talks With Gorbachev	[East Berlin ADN]	24
PRAVDA Cites Gysi Remarks on Unification	[2 Feb]	24
Moscow Dailies Publish Gysi Interviews		25
IZVESTIYA 2 Feb		25
SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 2 Feb		27
Gysi Rejects Disbandment of SED-PDS	[PRAVDA 28 Jan]	28
GDR Party Seeks Confederative German Community	[PRAVDA 2 Feb]	28
GDR's CDU Party Decides To Quit Government	[PRAVDA 27 Jan]	29
Aboimov Recounts First Visit of GDR's Fischer	[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 25 Jan]	30
Modrow Cited on German Unification Plan	[PRAVDA 2 Feb]	31
Former GDR Leaders To Face Trial in March	[TASS]	32
GDR Correspondent Views Neofascist Resurgence	[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Jan]	32
Maneuvers Scheduled for 5-11 Feb in GDR	[TASS]	33
TASS Notes Bulgarian Government's Resignation		33
14th Extraordinary BCP Congress Begins Work		33
Draft Rules, Manifesto Published	[SELSKAYA ZHIZN 20 Jan]	33
Lukanov Comments on Congress	[TASS]	34
Mladenov Delivers Address	[PRAVDA 31 Jan]	34
'Sharpness' of Debates Noted	[PRAVDA 1 Feb]	36
CPSU Greetings Published	[PRAVDA 31 Jan]	37
Bulgarian Prosecutor Reports on Demonstrations	[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]	37
Former Bulgarian Party Chief Under Arrest	[TASS]	38
BCP's Lilov Thanks Soviet Union for Perestroyka	[PRAVDA 29 Jan]	38
Reports Noted From East European Capitals	[TASS]	38

West Europe

'Gorbachev Adviser' Interviewed by Hamburg Paper	[BILD 24 Jan]	39
Plan To Elect W. Berlin Deputies 'Dangerous'	[PRAVDA 1 Feb]	40
Thatcher, President Bush Support for Gorbachev	[Moscow International]	40
UK Foreign Secretary's Berlin Visit Assessed	[Kolesnichenko in PRAVDA 28 Jan]	41
Masol, Ukrainian Delegation Arrive in Munich	[Kiev International]	41
Prospect of 3 U.S. Bases Closings in UK Noted	[IZVESTIYA 31 Jan]	41
Belgian Defense Minister Coeme Interviewed	[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 27 Jan]	42

Latin America & Caribbean

Brazil's President-Elect Concludes Visit	[Brasilia Radio]	44
'Anti-Cuban' TV Transmissions To Start	[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 Jan]	44
Castro Hits Capitalist Trends in East Bloc	[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 31 Jan]	44
Delay Reported in Food Shipments to Cuba		45
Cuban Paper Expresses Concern	[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 27 Jan]	45
Delay in Shipments Explained	[Moscow International]	47
IZVESTIYA Report Cited	[Moscow Radio Peace and Progress]	47
Soviet Ships Arrive With Wheat	[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 30 Jan]	48
Shortfalls in Soviet-Cuban Economic Cooperation	[Moscow Radio]	48
Commentator Views Soviet-Cuban Trade Situation	[Korotkov on Moscow International]	48

Cosmonaut Comments on Soviet-Cuban Relations [Moscow International]	49
---	----

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Transcaucasus Situation

Baku Commandant on Easing Curfew Regulations [TASS]	50
City 'Returned to Normal' [Baku Radio]	50
People's Front Council Criticized [Moscow Radio]	50
Central Press Continues Reportage of Events	51
Armenians Probe Killing [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 2 Feb]	51
Criticism of Troops Rebutted [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Jan]	52
Rear Services' Role Described [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Feb]	52
Fleeing Families Aided [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Jan]	53
Transcaucasus Coverage Criticized [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 30 Jan]	53
'Evil People' Blamed for Unrest [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 30 Jan]	54
Moscow Radio Coverage of Transcaucasus Events	56
Talks Begin in Riga	56
Border Stabilizing	56
'Normalization Process' Slow	57
Armenian Enterprises Work at Night	57
Azeri Minister Notes Casualties	57
Azerbaijan Scene Described	58
Moscow TV Continues Reportage of Events	59
Armenian, Azeri Talks	59
Improved Baku Situation	59
TASS Updates Transcaucasus Developments	60
Talks in Riga Continue	60
Death Toll Set at 139	60
Calm Returns to Azerbaijan	61
Latest MVD Data Noted	62
Yerevan Radio Reviews Events in, Around Armenia	62
MVD on 'Resolute Measures'	62
Border Tension Continues	62
'Vremya' Report Denied	63
Five Trains Enter Armenia	63
Armenian Town Renamed	63
Baku Radio Carries Announcements of Events	63
Victims' Families To Receive Aid	63
Leadership Honors Victims	63
Situation in Gendzha Viewed	64
Kiev International on Refugees Arriving in Ukraine	64

Political & Social

Former Leningrad Chief Expelled for 'Immodesty' [TASS]	64
Prank Bomb Threat at Kursk Power Plant Reported [Moscow Radio]	64
Radiation Leak at Kalinin Nuclear Station [Moscow Radio]	65
House Levelled Due to Stolen Radioactive Source [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Jan]	65
Estonian Front Aims To Rival Communists [IZVESTIYA 2 Feb]	66
Estonian USSR Deputy on Interrepublic Ties [SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA 13 Jan]	66
Estonian Supreme Soviet Adopts Statement [Tallin Radio]	69
Estonian Party Official on Future of Kohtla-Järve [Tallinn Radio]	69
Party Secretary Interviewed on Latvia [Riga Radio]	70
Latvian Komsomol Splits From Moscow [Vilnius International]	72
Latvian Arms Hoards Linked to Armed Organization [SELSKAYA ZHIZN 2 Feb]	72
Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Session To Open 6 Feb [Vilnius International]	73
Lithuanian Presidium Suggests Legalizing Holidays [Vilnius International]	73
Party Secretaries Invited to Moscow Plenum [Vilnius Radio]	73
Opposing Lithuanian Opinions Analyzed [SOYUZ No 3]	73
Lithuanian Foreign Ministry Activities Noted [SOBYTIYA I VREMYA No 1]	75

Lithuanian Newspaper Prices Raised [PRAVDA 2 Feb]	76
Baltic Economic Sovereignty To Be Discussed [Vilnius International]	77
Belorussian Central Committee Plenum Held 27 Dec [SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA 28 Dec]	77
Belorussian Party Chief Meets Press [SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA 5 Jan]	78
Belorussian First Secretary Addresses Plenum [SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA 28 Dec]	79
Ukraine Trade Unions: Price Hikes Unreasonable [TASS]	87
Ukrainian Politburo Meets on Ethnic Problem [Kiev International]	88
Union of Working People Set Up in Ukraine [Kiev International]	88
Situation Termed 'Uneasy' in Moldavia [Moscow TV]	88
Moldavian Political Situation Deteriorating [IZVESTIYA 2 Feb]	88
Statement on Moscow Anti-Semitic Incident [Moscow Radio]	89
Moscow Jewish Congress Discussed [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 Jan]	90
Special Migrant Service Formed in Moscow [IZVESTIYA 1 Feb]	91
Kharkov Illegal Knitwear Manufacturers Arrested [Moscow TV]	92
PRAVDA Report on Arrests [30 Jan]	92
Joint KGB, MVD Efforts Against Crime [RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 25 Jan]	93
Foreign Trade Employees Work Financial Swindle [IZVESTIYA 25 Jan]	94
Service Cards Burned at Lvov Informals Rally [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Jan]	94
Emergency Measures To Combat Chita Energy Crisis [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Jan]	95
Worker Cites Declining Trust in Party Policy [SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 21 Jan]	95
Government Body Meets on Tank Sale Scandal [PRAVDA 1 Feb]	96
ANT Director Interviewed [Moscow Radio]	97
Laverov Attends Certification Commission Plenum [IZVESTIYA 28 Jan]	99
Moscow Opinion Poll on Upcoming Elections [VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA 9 Jan]	99
Moscow Election Campaign Enters 'Crucial Stage' [TASS]	100
Moscow Gorkom First Secretary Interviewed [VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA 12 Jan]	100
Lukyanov on Crime Control, 'Black Market' Sales [Moscow TV]	103
Local Reactions to Ryabev Team's Talks in Kuzbass [IZVESTIYA 18 Jan]	104
Saratov Party Contacts With Informals Applauded [PRAVDA 18 Jan]	105
Russian Orthodox Prelates on Church Seizures [Moscow TV]	105
Report of Cathedral Transfer Denied [TASS]	106
Orthodox Cathedral Handed Over to Catholics [TASS]	106
Trans-Carpathian Party Obkom Official Retires [Kiev Radio]	106
Demonstration Against Radar Station [Budapest TV]	107
Transcarpathia Radar Station Project Halted [Kiev International]	107
Plenum Held To Elect Kulyab Oblast Officials [Dushanbe Radio]	108
Restoring Volga German ASSR Discussed [SOYUZ No 3]	108
Troop Withdrawal From Czechoslovakia Viewed [MOSCOW NEWS No 4]	110
Shcherbakov Warns of Increasing Unemployment [Hamburg DPA]	111
Publisher Views Printing Problems, Press Law [PRAVDA 17 Jan]	111
Supreme Court Exonerates More Stalin Victims [TASS]	113
Conference Discusses Azov Sea Ecology [IZVESTIYA 26 Jan]	113

Economic

Budget Chairman Outlines New Taxation Principles [TASS]	113
Economists Ponder Problems of Conversion [TASS]	114

Agricultural

Incentives Needed To Lower Grain Imports [SELSKAYA ZHIZN 27 Jan]	114
Agro-Industrial Complex Data Reveals Shortfalls [Moscow Radio]	116

Scientific

Further Reportage on Progress of Space Flight [Moscow TV, etc]	117
1 Feb Activities	117
Report on Space Walk	117
More on Walk	117
TASS Report	118
Purpose of 'Armchair' Walk	119

Research Ship Departs Trip to Antarctic	[Kaliningrad Maritime Press Service]	119
TASS Reports on Cosmos-2058 Blast Off		119

Military

'Kirov' Commander Denies Radiation Leak Reports	[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 31 Jan]	119
General M.V. Adekov Dies in Road Accident	[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Feb]	120
Lizichev Addresses Veterans Council Plenum	[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 28 Jan]	120

Babyev Interviewed on Military Budget Cuts

*PM0202095190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 2 Feb 90 First Edition p 3*

[Interview with Colonel General V.N. Babyev, chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense Central Finance Directorate, by Captain 1st Rank V. Kuzar: "The USSR's Defense Expenditure"—in Vienna on 31 January; first paragraph is an introduction]

[Text] The seminar on military doctrines is continuing its work in Vienna. Colonel General V.N. Babyev, chief of the USSR Ministry of Defense Central Finance Directorate, addressed the seminar on 31 January. Our correspondent met with him beforehand and asked him to answer a series of questions.

[Kuzar] Vladimir Nikolayevich, what is the purpose of your speech at the seminar on military doctrines?

[Babyev] It is well known that the purpose of the seminar now being held in the Austrian capital is to expand and deepen the understanding of the essence of military doctrines and the degree of their implementation at the present stage on the basis of free and frank exchange of opinions. In practical terms, this is hard to achieve without discussing military budgets. After all, expenditure for military purposes is a component of the parameters which can be used to judge the orientation of each country's military doctrine.

My speech at the seminar will cover the questions of the USSR military budget and the system used to put it together. I also intend to reveal our principled approach toward the problem of reducing military expenditures and, within the terms of reference, to set out data not only as regards the total amount of expenditure on defense but also on the main expenditure categories according to the classification adopted in the USSR.

The opportunity to deliver such a report today testifies to the openness which the Soviet Union has not only proclaimed but is actually implementing.

[Kuzar] You said that a country's military doctrine can be judged by its military expenditure. Could you amplify this idea somewhat?

[Babyev] Let me use the USSR as an example. Our country's military doctrine today has a clearly expressed defensive nature. Its essence is determined by the new political thinking which emphasizes the unacceptability of war as a means of policy, the pointlessness of the arms race, and the need for new approaches toward ensuring international and national security. These are the fundamental political tenets used in the development of our military budget.

The implementation of the new defensive military doctrine enabled the Soviet Union to undertake a real reduction of military expenditure. Its level is determined on the basis of the volume of tasks and composition of the Armed Forces, the availability of technical means

and the method of manpower acquisition, the need to maintain troops and naval forces in a state of combat readiness.

This year's appropriations for the country's defense were ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet to a total of R70,975.8 million, which is R6,818.4 million or 8.2 percent below the 1989 level.

As we know, the military expenditures of Warsaw Pact countries are also being reduced.

Such a significant reduction of military expenditure was caused primarily by the USSR Supreme Soviet decision to reduce the numerical strength of the USSR Armed Forces by 500,000 men, and also to reduce orders for armaments, military equipment, property, and research and development. Despite the reduction, the defense appropriations ratified by the USSR Supreme Soviet are, in the conditions of positive changes in the international situation, sufficient for the country's defense.

[Kuzar] The Soviet press has already published a USSR Ministry of Defense report on the main avenues along which the 1990 appropriations for the country's defense will be distributed. Could you reveal these expenditure categories?

[Babyev] The largest sector, accounting for 43.7 percent of total expenditure on the country's defense, comprises purchases of armaments and military equipment. Appropriations in this sector are meant to finance series deliveries of armaments and equipment under contracts concluded by branches of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense main and central directorates directly with industrial plants. Expenditure in this budget sector has been reduced by R1,577 million or 4.8 percent against the 1989 level and amounts to R31.0 billion.

The 1990 deliveries plan envisages a reduction in the purchases of main types of armaments and combat equipment, primarily offensive means.

Another sector covers appropriations for research and development. In 1990, they will be R2,145.8 million or 14 percent below the level of last year's appropriations. They amount to R13.2 billion and account for 18.6 percent of the total volume of military expenditure.

The approved appropriations are earmarked to finance the optimal volume of research and development which would ensure the qualitative status of defense-oriented armaments and military equipment at the required level in the conditions of scientific and technical progress.

A sizeable reduction of the 1990 appropriations for research and development of armaments and military equipment was effected by terminating at various stages work on aviation, naval, and other projects, and also by switching a series of projects from the experimental prototype stage to scientific experiment status.

Next we have expenditure on the maintenance of the Army and Navy. It can be divided in two groups. The first group covers expenditure on personnel maintenance. A sum of R6,798 million has been ratified for this purpose in 1990, including R5,765.9 million for money payments to servicemen and R1,032.1 million for the wages of workers and employees. As a result of the reduction of the Armed Forces' numerical strength, appropriations for money payments to servicemen in 1990 were ratified at R463.1 million or 7.4 percent below the 1989 level.

The second group of expenditure concerns material and technical supplies and the combat training of troops and naval forces. A sum of R12,525.3 million has been ratified for these purposes in 1990. These funds will be used to: Pay for food supplies and for clothing and related gear; provide consumer and medical services for Army and Navy personnel and economic and communal facilities [khozyaystvennoye i kommunalnoye obustroystvo] for troops; pay for heating and transport fuel [toplivo i goryucheye]; repair armaments and military equipment; provide military transport facilities; lease communications channels; conduct the combat, operational, physical, and political training of troops; maintain airfields, bases, warehouses, and so on.

A total of R19,232.3 million has been ratified for the maintenance of the Army and Navy in 1990, which is R881.1 million or 4 percent below the level of appropriations for these purposes in 1989.

Military construction work. Expenditure for these purposes in 1990 has been ratified at a total of R3,715.8 million or, in other words, R880.5 million or 19.2 percent below the 1989 level. Out of the aforementioned sum, R1,042 million will be channeled into housing stock construction, and R669 million into projects for social, cultural, and consumer service purposes (dining rooms, stores, baths, laundries, medical treatment institutions, communal installations).

In addition to this, it is planned to channel a sum of R306 million from appropriations for capital construction into major repairs to housing stock, communal installations, and main services networks.

Finally, expenditure on pension payments in 1990 will amount to R2,440 million or 7 percent above the 1989 level. This increase in appropriations was caused by the rising numbers of pensioners as a result of the reduction of USSR Armed Forces.

[Kuzar] The main avenues for the distribution of defense appropriations also include other expenditures. On what is this money spent?

[Babyev] This section of the military budget covers appropriations to finance the production and delivery of nuclear explosives to the USSR Ministry of Defense. Expenditure for this purpose in 1990 is planned at a total of R1,306.2 million. Compared with 1989, the appropriations have been reduced by R993.8 million or 43.2

percent, which is evidence of practical steps to implement the nuclear disarmament program put forward by the Soviet leadership.

The aforementioned data make it clear that expenditure on the country's defense has been reduced in all budget sectors, except expenditure on pension payments.

[Kuzar] Speaking at the Vienna seminar, you will probably say something about the future prospects of USSR military expenditure. What are they?

[Babyev] The Soviet state's peace initiatives, the conclusion of a series of treaties on the reduction and limitation of individual types of arms, and the principles of the new military doctrines have enabled us to effect a truly revolutionary maneuver. Taking into account the reduction of expenditures in 1989-90, the total savings on defense costs against the amount provided by the plan for the current 5-year plan period amount to almost R30 billion.

I must note that, as a result of this process, there has been a reduction of defense expenditure as a proportion of gross national product. Whereas this indicator stood at 8.5 percent in 1989, it stands at 7.5 percent in 1990. Defense expenditure as a proportion of national income has also been reduced from 12.1 percent in 1989 to 11.0 percent in 1990.

We intend to persistently follow the path of disarmament, aiming to reduce defense expenditure as a proportion of national income by a factor of 1.5-2 by 1995.

In the event of progress at the talks on arms reductions and of signing treaties in Vienna and Geneva, there will be a further reduction of the levels of military confrontation and this will certainly lead to an even more significant reduction of military expenditure. Thus, any further reduction of USSR military expenditure will directly depend on the state of the international situation and the readiness for constructive decisions in the processes of reducing armaments and armed forces.

We also perceive the Vienna seminar as an opportunity to exchange opinions and expand openness on questions of military expenditure. The Soviet Union has confirmed its readiness to join the standardized UN accounting system for military expenditures. An objective evaluation of these expenditures will have an effect on the limitation of the armaments program, as well as on the stability and predictability of the development of the military-political situation.

Warsaw Pact Commander Interviewed on Prospects

*LD0202084990 Moscow TASS in English 0802 GMT
2 Feb 90*

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Oleg Moskovskiy:

The importance of transforming the Warsaw Treaty Organisation from a military-political to a political-military alliance was stressed in a TASS interview by General Pyotr Lushev, commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Treaty United Armed Forces.

Commenting on rumours and allegations in the West regarding prospects for the Warsaw Treaty, Lushev noted that perestroika in the Soviet Union and changes in East European countries are underlined by peoples' striving for universal human ideals and values. Objectively this calls for establishing nonconfrontational relations between East and West, recognising the priority of political measures in settling contentious issues.

"It is exactly in this context that the activity of the Warsaw Treaty, and NATO as well, acquires a new dimension, which is particularly reflected in the rejection of some old forms and methods of activity, in gradual transition to political dialogue," the general said.

However, despite a marked thaw in the international climate, the military threat still exists. Realistically assessing its scope, the Warsaw Treaty states cannot but be concerned about strengthening its defensive alliance.

"I will especially stress that the Warsaw Treaty remains a decisive guarantee of their sovereignty and security, respect and inviolability of post-war borders. It makes an important contribution to preserving stability in Europe and the world," Lushev said.

Special CW Committee Ends Work in Geneva

LD0202000790 Moscow TASS in English 1936 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Geneva February 1 TASS—The special committee on chemical weapons, which functions as part of the Disarmament Conference, ended its work at the Geneva Palace of Nations today.

Its members approved a report on the committee's activities, to be submitted to the next session of the Disarmament Conference, due to open here on February 6.

The results of the annual cycle of multilateral negotiations have been thus summed up. The 1989 negotiations were undoubtedly marked with a broader possibilities for work. A revised draft convention on full prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons was prepared as a result of the latest round of negotiations and consultations. The draft convention reflects many new provisions the delegations agreed upon in the recent time.

These include a protocol on inspections, the completion of the elaboration of proposals to regulate the production and the use of most dangerous chemicals in peaceful purposes. The wordings on the formation of a scientific-consultative committee were agreed upon. And, finally, progress was reached in drafting the convention's concluding articles, which are mainly legal.

All that prepares ground for the committee to attend to the convention's main outstanding issues in 1990.

TASS Summary of Gerasimov 1 Feb Briefing*LD0102181190 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT
1 Feb 90*

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—The Soviet Union fully supports the United States readiness to establish new relations with the Soviet Union. This readiness was expressed in the State of the Union message that U.S. President George Bush delivered in Congress on January 31. Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told a briefing here to-day.

During the briefing he expressed regret over U.S. CNN TV company's claim last Tuesday that Mikhail Gorbachev plans to resign from the post of Soviet Communist Party general secretary and over the fact that CNN did not stop broadcasting this newsreel even after Gorbachev himself refuted these rumors in a talk with correspondents.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry restored the status of honorary consul that existed before the 1917 October Revolution. The first honorary consul of the USSR was appointed in Santa Cruz in December 1989. He is Bolivian artist Lorjio Vaca Duran.

Gerasimov noted an interview with head of the Central Financial Department of the Soviet Defense Ministry Vladimir Babyev, published on Thursday by the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper.

The interview dwells on Soviet defense spending. Gerasimov stressed that the "further reduction of Soviet defense spending will directly depend on the West's readiness for a constructive solution of problems in the sphere of arms and armed force reduction."

In terms of Soviet diplomatic efforts to solve regional conflicts, the Soviet Union continues to pursue a peaceful process in the Middle East, Gerasimov said.

He stressed that the Soviet side maintains active contacts with the sides directly involved in the conflict and noted that Soviet Foreign Minister Assistant and Special Representative for Middle Eastern Affairs Gennady Tarasov is now staying in Tunisia to meet Palestinian leaders.

Gerasimov described as "a non-friendly action as regards the Soviet Union" the memorandum by the U.S. Department of State to the Sierra Leone Government, which claimed Soviet reconnaissance of U.S. strategic facilities on Liberian territory.

"Such allegations are deliberate misinformation," Gerasimov said. "Soviet naval ships do not conduct reconnaissance of U.S. facilities on Liberian territory. There are no Soviet means of radio and radiotechnical surveillance on Sierra Leone territory and the Soviet Union does not plan to place them there."

The Soviet Union welcomes the French leadership's desire to raise the efficiency of cooperation and deepen the dialogue with East European countries, Gerasimov said, commenting on the decision of the French Council

of Ministers to set up a "special inter-ministry commission" to coordinate help and cooperation with East European countries.

Progress With U.S. Supported*LD0102154790 Moscow TASS in English 1533 GMT
1 Feb 90*

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—The Soviet Union fully shares and supports the United States readiness to build new relations with the Soviet Union. This readiness was expressed in the State of the Union message which U.S. President George Bush delivered in the Congress on January 31. Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov told this [to] a briefing here today.

The spokesman positively appraised the striving, expressed in the President's message, for specific efforts towards concluding stage-by-stage agreements in the area of strategic and conventional arms and chemical weapons.

He emphasized that the Soviet side received with interest and is ready to discuss Bush's proposal for lower limits on the numerical strength of the Soviet and U.S. forces in central Europe.

Gerasimov also noted that the U.S. President proposed to reduce Soviet and U.S. troops in central and Eastern Europe, leaving aside 30 thousand U.S. servicemen stationed in Britain, Greece, and some other European countries.

This indicates that the study of the Presidential's proposal will take certain time, Gerasimov said.

The Soviet side expects progress in other areas of the Soviet-American dialogue—regional, economic, transnational and humanitarian—during the forthcoming official visit to the Soviet Union by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the spokesman said.

Gerasimov expressed the hope that the President's message indicates a clear striving to use to the utmost the unique chance which this year offers for progress to a new level of Soviet-American and international understanding and interaction.

At the same time Gerasimov noted that the analysis of the essence of some processes in the world today, given in the President's message is clearly faulty and not abreast of the times.

In this connection he recalled the President's statements about the failure of communism, the triumph of the American idea and the persisting strategic menace posed by the Soviet Union.

Honorary Consuls Restored

LD0102141290 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1325 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (TASS)—The institution of appointing honorary consuls, which existed prior to the October Revolution, has been reestablished at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reported Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, at a briefing today. The first honorary consul of the USSR was appointed in December 1989 in the city of Santa Cruz. He is the Bolivian citizen Lorjio Vaca Duran, an artist who is well known in Bolivia.

Lorjio Vaca Duran, the Foreign Ministry spokesman noted, in accordance with the status of honorary consul, will carry out his duties with no compensation.

U.S. Charge of Spying in Liberia Denied

LD0102141890 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1327 GMT 1 Feb 90

["USSR Foreign Ministry Spokesman has Refuted U.S. State Department Allegations—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (TASS)—At a briefing here today, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, appraised the memorandum from the U.S. State Department to the Government of Sierra Leone as "an unfriendly action with regard to the Soviet Union".

According to this memorandum, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman reported, the Soviet Union is purportedly carrying out radioelectronic reconnaissance of U.S. strategic installations situated in the territory of Liberia. It says that Soviet Navy ships which are in the Sierra Leone maritime economic zone are being used for this purpose, as well as surface installations which are made out to be on the territory of this state.

"Such allegations are deliberate disinformation," the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman stated. "Naval ships are not being used to spy on U.S. installations in the territory of Liberia. There are no Soviet radio and radio engineering reconnaissance installations on the territory of Sierra Leone and there are no plans to locate them there."

Human Rights Conference Opens in Moscow

PM0102151790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
1 Feb 90 Second Edition p 5

[Article by A. Lopukhin, A. Lyutyy, and S. Mikheyev: "Trust and Accord; Europe: The Human Dimension"]

[Text] Representatives of the public of countries participating in the CSCE assembled in Moscow yesterday for an international meeting entitled "The Human Dimension of the All-European Process: The Public's Role." Parliamentarians and cultural figures, diplomats and

religious figures, journalists and scientists, and representatives of various public and international organizations were among them.

The meeting was organized on the initiative of the Helsinki commission of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. Among the Soviet participants in the meeting there were representatives not only of public organizations which have already been in operation for a long time, but also of associations involved in human rights problems.

V.V. Tereshkova, USSR people's deputy, chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and chairman of its Helsinki commission, gave the welcoming address to those assembled. We all want to help to create a Europe of trust and accord, openness and stability, she stressed.

The elaboration of the best mechanism for the defense of human rights in both East and West and the open exchange of people, ideas, information, spiritual and material values, and experience of socioeconomic and political development requires our common concern and efforts.

International forces at all levels—political, diplomatic, and social—are already thinking about and working on this mechanism within the framework of the all-European process.

The opening of cultural centers in various countries, the expansion of exchanges between young people, a better setup for studying languages, and broader contact between people and between families will help to fully uncover the human dimension of the all-European process.

The present Moscow meeting, Yu.A. Reshetov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Administration for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights, noted in conversation with us, can be regarded as preparation for the forthcoming all-European Conference on the Human Dimension in Copenhagen. It is particularly gratifying, he said, that representatives of informal organizations are also taking part in the Moscow meeting. Problems are being discussed openly and in an unbiased way. We feel much more confident at such forums than we did a few years ago.

The speeches by the Soviet participants are making an impression, Teodor Zupanov, deputy director of the UN Human Rights Center, said. And the general atmosphere of the meeting is helping progress toward a more stable, prosperous, harmonious Europe, which will be a real home for the peoples living in it.

In answer to the question about why she decided to participate in the international meeting, the Marchioness of Lothian, president of Britain's National Women's Federation, said that the Helsinki documents reflect all the basic human values and it is important to try to make them become part of our everyday life—in

every city and village, and in every family. Our organization unites those who have voluntarily decided to devote their time and energies to implementing lofty ideals common to all mankind. I came here to exchange experiences, to talk about how our organization is involving people in solving social, ecological, women's, and young people's problems. People need to exchange opinions and experience, they must meet more often in order to understand each other better. I admire your country and its cultural achievements, the Marchioness of Lothian concluded. Without Russia and its culture, Europe would breathe with only one lung, but together with Russia it can breathe fully.

Moscow Conference Discusses Human Rights

*LD0202095290 Moscow TASS in English 2047 GMT
1 Feb 90*

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Mikhail Ivanov:

The participation of prominent diplomats such as Yuri Reshetov and Richard Schifter, in the international meeting "Human Dimensions in the European Process: The Role of the Public", underway here, does not mean that professional politicians, as before, try to usurp the dialogue conducted by ordinary citizens. Rather, the opposite is true.

Both the chief of the Directorate for International Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs believe that people-to-people contacts now assume the primary role.

The task of the diplomats is to create favorable conditions for the development of such contacts, Schifter told TASS.

His Soviet counterpart Reshetov is of the opinion that diplomacy now relies on public opinion which follows closely political developments to see that the principles of morality be observed.

The participants in the forum heard with interest the opinion of the two diplomats on specific problems of human rights. Regarding the question of travel, Reshetov said that the number of "refuseniks" in the Soviet Union dwindled sharply.

"There are 96 names on the list referred to Soviet authorities on Malta," he said. "As many as 30 persons on that list have already been permitted to emigrate."

Some persons are not permitted to leave because of state security reasons. This is not an invention but is reflected in an international covenant, he said.

At the same time Reshetov noted that efforts should be taken to ensure that not a single one of these restrictions be arbitrary. The public plays an important role in ensuring this.

The diplomat, specifically, said that a group of people representing the interests of "Refuseniks" will be invited to participate in the debates on a bill on travel in one of the committees of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The problems of human rights are topical not only for the Soviet Union, but also for other countries, including those with a high level of the development of democratic traditions, Reshetov said.

Schifter said it was asserted in the past that the East and the West have different notions of human rights. He said many have understood now that all people represent one civilization and that their concepts of what relations between the government and nation should be are very similar, though possibly not identical.

Schifter said that the holding of the forum in the Soviet Union had become possible due to changes that have taken place in the Soviet Union of late, above all due to the new policy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The American diplomat said the whole world wishes success to perestroika and referred to the words of President George Bush about the readiness of the U.S. Administration to cooperate with the Soviet Union. He said this applies not only to the U.S. Administration. The striving for specific manifestation of good attitude to the USSR is strong among grassroots in the United States.

ANGOP Cited on U.S. Aid to UNITA

*LD0102140490 Moscow TASS in English 0942 GMT
1 Feb 90*

["U.S. and South African Advisers Are Fighting on UNITA Side"—TASS headline]

[Text] Luanda February 1 TASS—Military advisers from the United States and South Africa were rushed to southern Angola to bolster the positions of the anti-government National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] group, the Angolan news agency ANGOP reported.

The Angolan leadership cannot indifferently observe how UNITA is intensifying terrorist actions in the country in violation of the ceasefire agreement.

UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi announced in Lisbon on Tuesday his intention urgently to return to southern Angola where, as he put it, government troops stepped up the offensive operation against the UNITA.

In keeping with the decision of the supreme legislative authority of the People's Republic of Angola, the government took necessary steps to halt violence. Some of these defensive measures are already producing wishful results, the ANGOP stressed.

Under no circumstances, however, the Angolan Government will renounce its peace policy, and will continue efforts to ensure security and tranquility in the country.

International Law Association Meeting Ends

*PM0102154590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
1 Feb 90 Second Edition p 5*

[TASS report: "Forum Has Ended"]

[Text] The annual meeting of the Soviet International Law Association ended 31 January by considering organizational questions.

The day before the meeting ended, the results of the scientific-practical forum "The New Thinking and International Law," which was held in conjunction with the

USSR Foreign Ministry, were summed up. For 2 days scientists and diplomats examined questions of the primacy of international law in politics, judicial means of resolving international disputes, international standards in the human rights sphere, and so forth. The leaders of the five sections in which debates took place and who delivered reports, voiced a high assessment of the exchange of opinions. The discussions were active and reflected tremendous interest in finding practical approaches to the implementation of theoretical concepts in these spheres, it was stressed at the close of the forum.

United States & Canada

U.S. Proposal Termed 'Step in Right Direction'

AU0102125090 Paris AFP in English 1204 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] London, Feb 1 (AFP)—President George Bush's proposal for cuts in U.S. and Soviet troop levels in Europe are "a step in the right direction" and a good basis for discussion, Soviet Government spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said in a television interview Thursday.

Mr. Gerasimov, giving the first official Soviet reaction to Mr. Bush's proposal, told Channel Four: "The main attitude that we have here in Moscow, the feeling, is that it's a good idea, we can discuss it."

"I am still reading the text because we have just got it, but the initial reaction is positive," said Mr. Gerasimov in a telephone interview from Moscow.

"We want foreign troops to be removed from foreign soil, so this is a step in the right direction."

On Mr. Bush's proposal for 195,000 troops to be retained by each superpower in central Europe, Mr. Gerasimov said: "We can discuss it, and actually this is just the pilot idea, the beginning of the proposal. It must be submitted to the Conventional Forces in Europe talks" in Vienna, he added.

Asked to comment on British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's statement that the West must not drop its guard on defence, Mr. Gerasimov said: "We must drop our stereotypes and the images we have had about each other during the years of the cold war."

"In the sense of having armies, we still need them for defence purposes, but only for defence."

Mr. Gerasimov said Mr. Bush's proposal, which would leave the United States with an estimated 225,000 troops in Europe, should not be regarded as a final long-term figure.

"I think that in the long run this figure of 225,000 is too high," he said. "It's a step in the right direction but it's not the end of the journey."

Moscow Dailies on 'State of Union' Message

IZVESTIYA 2 Feb

PM0102162290 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "U.S. President's Speech"]

[Text] At a joint session of Congress President Bush delivered the "State of the Union" speech, in which he summed up the results of his first year in office and set forth the program for the administration's activity in the coming year.

At the center of the foreign policy section of the President's speech was his proposal on reducing American and Soviet troops in central and Eastern Europe to 195,000 men on each side. The implementation of this proposal means in effect establishing parity in the numerical strength of troops solely in central Europe. If you take into account American troops in other parts of Europe, the total strength on the European Continent will be 225,000.

In his speech, which was relayed on television, Bush said, in particular:

For more than 40 years, America and its allies held back communism and ensured the preservation of democracy. Today, when communism is collapsing, our aim should be to ensure the progress of democracy. We should head the development of that which primarily ensures freedom and peace—the great, growing community of free countries. Addressing Congress and all Americans, I declare that the time has come to reach a new consensus both in the country and abroad—a common vision of a peaceful planet.

The time has come to extend a hand to the democratic regimes that are forming in Eastern Europe. The time has come to build new relations with the Soviet Union—to support and promote the peaceful process of movement toward democracy and economic freedom. We have entered a period of great transition, great hopes, but also great instability. We recognize that the Soviet military threat in Europe is growing weaker, but we see no particular changes in the process of modernization of Soviet strategic forces. We should therefore continue the modernization of our own strategic offensive forces and the implementation of SDI. But the time has come to approach an agreement on conventional arms control which will ensure that we have more appropriate levels of military forces in Europe—a consistent military program that will help the United States to remain a catalyst for peaceful changes in Europe.

I have consulted with the leaders of the NATO countries, and only today I talked with President Gorbachev on the telephone. I agree with our European allies that the American military presence in Europe is necessary and that it is dictated not only by the Soviet military presence in Eastern Europe. But the numerical strength of the troops could be lower. Therefore, today I announce a major new step—the further reduction in the strength of American and Soviet troops in central and Eastern Europe to 195,000 on each side. This figure was recommended by our high-ranking military advisers. This level is designed to take account of the interests of America and the Europeans and to ensure the fulfillment of NATO military strategy. Our aim now should be the rapid completion of arms control talks—on conventional, chemical, and strategic arms. The time has come. Nonetheless we should acknowledge an unpleasant fact: In many regions of the world the reality today is not peace, but conflict. Enmity and contradictory interests still persist. America should therefore be strong enough

and self-confident enough to defend our interests and ideals and to serve the cause of peace. It is this American idea that has served for the last 40 years as a source of inspiration for the revolution that happened in 1989. [President ends]

At a briefing in the White House devoted to Bush's speech, an administration spokesman was asked what M.S. Gorbachev's reaction was.

Answer: He received the President's call very well. In his opinion this approach promotes good relations. He said, of course, that he will study this proposal.

According to the spokesman, the American proposal on the strength of forces in Europe does not change the timetable for the Vienna talks, nor is the United States considering the possibility of changing its stance on close-range nuclear weapons [yadernoye oruzhiye blizhnego deystviya] in Europe. As for SALT, "we are striving with all our might to conclude a treaty by the time of the summit meeting in June, or at least (to draw up) a significant part of it."

PRAVDA 2 Feb

PM0102172790 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Feb 90 First Edition p 4

[Report by own correspondent V. Gan: "On Last Day of January"]

[Text] Washington—U.S. President G. Bush delivered the traditional "State of the Union" message on Wednesday at a joint session of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Supporting the further development of "new relations" with the Soviet Union, the President announced an administration proposal to cut Soviet and U.S. forces in Central and East Europe to 195,000 men on either side. (At the same time, the United States is "allowed" to maintain an additional 30,000 servicemen in Britain, Italy, and Turkey). Previously Bush had put forward a plan to reduce existing levels to 275,000 men.

"We recognize that the Soviet military threat in Europe has diminished," the President said, pointing out the opportunity for "progress in the sphere of an agreement on conventional arms control and the establishment of more appropriate levels of armed forces in Europe." "The rapid completion of our talks on arms control—conventional, chemical, and strategic—should be our goal now. The time for this has arrived," Bush said.

At the same time, the President—and this clearly contrasted with the positive context of the proposal—remained loyal to Washington's intention to continue improving nuclear weapons and to develop the program for the militarization of space. Citing the Pentagon's standard argument on Soviet efforts "on strategic modernization," Bush stressed that the United States should not "cease our own strategic offensive modernization and strategic defense initiative."

At any rate, the White House's proposal is bound to be very closely analyzed both here, in the United States, and by all interested parties. I would only add that it has not been made out of altruism. Despite presidential aides' claims, Washington observers consider that the main reason for the proposal is criticism of Bush that he has been "too slow" to react to the changes taking place in Europe. Moreover, they mention the strong pressure Congress is placing on the administration, insisting on a bigger reduction of U.S. military expenditure than currently planned. According to CBS television, the position of the U.S. allies, supporting a considerable reduction in the size of forces in Europe, was also a factor.

The rest of the presidential address was, if you like, a collection of fancy phrases about the "cause of peace," which "will be served by an America that is strong enough." While advocating the right of all people to "be free," Bush praised...the U.S. armed intervention in Panama.

If one discounts the proposal on troop reductions, Bush's message was as expected. The President studiously avoided attacking the Democrat-controlled Congress, stressing cooperation in "improving our democratic system." An understandable emphasis, since there is something of an impasse in the U.S. Government at the moment—the President can veto any action by Democrat legislators that he does not like and they, in turn, can reject any proposal by Bush. That is why effective government of the country can only be implemented on the basis of consensus and compromise.

In fact, House of Representatives speaker T. Foley talked about this in the Democrats' reply to Bush's message. The speaker did not say a word about the President's proposal on troops in Europe, but on the eve of his speech, in conversation with correspondents, he gave it a positive rating and approved it. As an indicator of what Foley said, one can cite the Democrats' opinion that in the nineties, and in the next century, the "main challenge to America will be economic, not military."

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 2 Feb

PM0102150990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 2 Feb 90 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "United States: President's Message"]

[Text] Washington, 1 Feb—U.S. President George Bush delivered the traditional "State of the Union" message to a joint session of Congress Wednesday evening.

In his speech, carried on nationwide television, G. Bush summed up the results of his first year in power and outlined an action program for the coming months, dwelling in detail on priorities in domestic, military, and foreign policy. The past year, which brought "so many amazing changes," the President declared, "marks the beginning of a new age in our planet's life."

Speaking of these changes and opportunities, the White House chief emphasized in particular that "the time has

come to build new relations with the Soviet Union—to support and promote the peaceful process of movement toward democracy and economic freedom.”

Admitting that “the Soviet military threat in Europe is diminishing,” the President nonetheless claimed that the United States “perceives no special changes in the process of modernization of the Soviet strategic forces.”

“But the time has come to draw nearer to the conclusion of an agreement on conventional arms control which would guarantee us more acceptable levels of armed forces in Europe,” G. Bush went on to note. “The U.S. military presence in Europe is necessary,” he claimed, but “the strength of the forces could be lower.” The President announced a “major new step”—a proposal to reduce U.S. and Soviet troops in central and East Europe to the level of 195,000 on each side. He announced that he has held consultations on this issue with leaders of NATO countries and has had a telephone conversation with M.S. Gorbachev. “Our goal now must be to more quickly complete the talks on arms control—conventional, chemical, and strategic arms. The time for this has come.”

Touching on the question of the situation in East Europe, the U.S. President expressed the idea that “the time has come to offer a hand” to these countries. He expressed the hope that the European Continent “can greet the future integral and free.”

Moscow TV Comments on ‘New U.S. Initiative’

*LD0102180990 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 1 Feb 90*

[From “Vremya” newscast]

[Text] In Washington, U.S. President George Bush gave the traditional State of the Union address. Formulating the administration’s position in the sphere of strategic relations with the Soviet Union, he indicated the United States recognizes the reduction of the Soviet military threat in Europe, but said he also sees few changes in the Soviet strategic modernization. Therefore, noted the President, we should continue our own modernization of strategic offensive forces and the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Bush announced a new U.S. initiative, or, as he put it, a major new step. He stated that the United States proposes a reduction in the number of U.S. and Soviet troops in Central and East Europe to 195,000 on each side. [Video shows Bush delivering speech to enthusiastic applause by Congress]

CNN Head Admits Resignation Report ‘Rumor’

*LD0102125690 Moscow TASS in English 1234 GMT
1 Feb 90*

[Text] New York February 1 TASS—Ted Turner, head of the Cable News Network, does not preclude his participation in the next presidential elections.

Speaking at an Atlanta press club luncheon on Wednesday, Turner, 55, said that he would participate in the presidential race if the United States skids into an economic crisis.

The multimillionaire admitted that the report aired by his company on Tuesday that Gorbachev was considering resigning as Soviet Communist Party general secretary was based on a rumour.

He said that a report circulated by a CNN correspondent was instantaneously picked up and blown out of proportion by other media all over the world. CNN regarded it as a rumour, not a scoop.

U.S. Reaction to Resignation Rumor Examined

*PM0102170190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 1*

[Own correspondent V. Nadein report: “Then It Was Morning... How American Official and Business Circles Reacted to CNN’s Report From Moscow”]

[Text] Washington—Even denied rumors can be an aid to serious political analysis. The CNN report which claimed that M.S. Gorbachev “has decided to resign the post of general secretary next week” while retaining his position in the state leadership was news which swept through the country’s political and economic centers with the speed of a forest fire.

Now that Gorbachev himself has provided the necessary clarification by his reply to journalists during a meeting with Brazilian President-elect F. Collor, after his telephone conversation with G. Bush, after Western news agencies have disseminated the Soviet leader’s statement, and I quote his words, that “Any such suggestions are groundless”—after all this, it is easy to consign these rumors to oblivion.

But should we?

CNN is a very serious source of information. It is claimed, not without reason, that reporters for this TV company often scoop not only diplomats but also the CIA’s service. This makes the CNN news, broadcast every half-hour round the clock, very influential with not only millions of TV viewers, but also high political circles.

For some time this fact lent the rumor a semblance of authenticity. Hence the reaction to it reflects not an abstract, calculated attitude but the considered and very real attitude of various U.S. circles to the process of renewal in our country and to the leader whose personal destiny is indissolubly linked with this process.

The first to react was the New York stock market. The morning began here with a marked fall in prices.

I would remind you that the sensation peaked at dead of night in Moscow. That put Washington’s state institutions in a difficult position. The point is that the national

budget, announced but still not actually discussed, contains indications of a substantial cut in military spending. If any of our readers have doubts about the possible reverberations of Gorbachev's removal from real control—on any pretext, even the most plausible—here is something to think about. "A terrible outcry has gone up that we should immediately scatter our defenses and begin spending the so-called savings on various government programs," Robert Dole, leader of the Republican minority in the Senate, said. "And then you get a little phone call from Moscow. If anyone is so stupid as to play with our national defense by basing it on the political life or death of one man—M. Gorbachev—we are in great danger."

Administration representatives preferred not to comment until dawn broke in Moscow. In the direct sense of the word. That night the embassy in Moscow refused to confirm the CNN report. Defense Secretary Cheney's response was the most direct: "I am not sure that this would help positive development. I think that there is a general conviction here that Gorbachev's presence is important for the improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations." State Department spokesman Fitzwater was inscrutable: "I simply have no idea. I have never heard anything like it before. I have no information."

The telephone in the correspondents' center didn't stop ringing. Newspapers, radio, and television inquired whether a politician in our country can remain leader without occupying high positions in the party. I replied as best I could: That it has never happened before, but that many things are happening in our country now that have never happened before.

There was a parade of Sovietologists on the television in the evening. The kind who simplistically and maliciously juggled with names and events. Serious people showed very cogently the path which our country has traveled since 1985 and the difficulties which are rooted in the past.

It is interesting that some observers came very close to the factors which became clear the next day. To be precise: The cause of the rumor was that Secretary of State Baker was again forced to postpone his visit to Moscow. Baker knew the reason why—the Central Committee Plenum that opens Monday. According to THE WASHINGTON POST, however, the secretary of state "imprudently" refrained from giving an explanation.

Wall Street's reaction and the growling of the opponents of disarmament objectively reflect the anxiety in U.S. society. Anxiety that the present very popular peace-loving course depends to an enormous extent on the efforts of one man. That anxiety was deciphered most comprehensively by THE NEW YORK TIMES: "The suggestion that the Soviet President may leave his party post was interpreted as a sign that the reforms and democratization in the Soviet Union and East Europe are in probable jeopardy."

Vorontsev, Matlock Discuss Jewish Immigration

LD0202181390 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1722 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow, 2 Feb (TASS)—Yuliy Vorontsev, USSR first deputy foreign minister, today invited the U.S. Ambassador to the USSR Jack Matlock to call on him, and asked him for an explanation of recent reports of an alleged U.S.-Israeli agreement to "slow down" the entry to the United States of Jewish emigrants from the USSR in order to channel them exclusively to Israel.

The American ambassador denied the existence of any official accord with Israeli on this matter, but admitted that "for various reasons" the entry formalities of a considerable proportion of persons of Jewish nationality are being held up, sometimes taking as long as 1 year, and that this may force them to go to Israel. He promised to give a fuller answer to the Soviet question about artificial restrictions—in violation of human rights—on the entry of persons of Jewish nationality to the United States after he received appropriate instructions from Washington.

Issues concerning the situation in Central America were also discussed in the course of the conversation.

Comparison of Zaykov-Matlock Discussion

PM0102114990

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 1 February 1990 carries in its Second Edition on page 5 a TASS report on a 31 January meeting between L.N. Zaykov, CPSU Central Committee secretary, and J. Matlock, U.S. ambassador to the USSR. Comparison of the PRAVDA item, under the general heading "Official Announcements," with the item headlined "Zaykov, Matlock Discuss Ties Vis-a-Vis Europe" published in the 1 February issue of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, p 11, column one, reveals the following variation:

Second paragraph PRAVDA reads: ... world at large. The interlocutors expressed a common opinion regarding the need for further onward development in relations between the...(picking up third paragraph and retranslating)

Northeast Asia

U.S. Refutes Reports of Troop Cuts in Japan

LD0102120790 Moscow TASS in English 1135 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo February 1 TASS—The United States refuted press reports on plans to cut its troops in Japan.

The JIJI TSUSHIN news agency reports that U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney told Seiki Nishihiro, deputy chief of the Japanese National Defence Administration, during a Washington meeting that American

plans for a partial withdrawal of troops from other countries do not concern the Japanese isles.

The local press reported several days ago that the Pentagon had begun to study possible cuts of marine corps units in the country.

Press reports mentioned the 12th Air Squadron stationed at the Iwakuni Air Base, Yamaguchi Province, and the 3rd Division on Okinawa Island. However, Cheney said that the press reports were groundless.

The defence secretary also stressed that the Japanese-American Security Treaty is of great importance to both countries.

He stressed that the United States does not intend to abandon its "nuclear umbrella" policy and "forward-based" strategy with respect to Japan.

An editorial in the MAINICHI newspaper says that the Asian-Pacific region cannot remain isolated from world changes and should reflect the end of the cold war in Europe and the start of the disarmament epoch.

Attempts to preserve an outdated strategic structure there are unrealistic. Strengthening U.S. military bases on Okinawa and maintaining the combat power of the Yokosuka-based 7th U.S. Fleet, as well as the Air Force, will not serve disarmament, the newspaper notes.

It is regrettable that Asia lags far behind in international detente, the MAINICHI stresses.

Korea Reported

SK0102064490 Moscow International Service in Korean 1100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The United States declared that it would stop operations at its three air force bases in South Korea between 1991 and 1992.

The operating personnel of those bases, about 2,000 men and officers, will be withdrawn.

The spokesperson for the U.S. Forces Command in Seoul stated that the bases would not be closed but would be transferred to the South Korean forces.

The U.S. Air Force operations would be carried on at other bases.

The spokesperson stressed that the South Korean defense capabilities would not be affected by this.

At present, the number of U.S. expeditionary troops in South Korea is 43,000.

Shevardnadze Receives Outgoing DPRK Envoy

PM3101140390 Moscow PRAVDA 31 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Conversation at USSR Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Shevardnadze met on 30 January Ambassador of the Korean People's Democratic Republic to the Soviet Union Kwan Hui-kyong in connection with his final departure for home.

The sides expressed satisfaction with the progressive development of the Soviet-North Korean relations and confirmed the desire of the two countries to further develop and perfect comprehensive cooperation.

The Korean ambassador stressed that his country would continue vigorous efforts to achieve a constructive dialogue between the two parts of Korea and the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from the country's south and the reunification of the country on a peaceful democratic basis.

Shevardnadze reconfirmed the Soviet Union's solidarity with the policy aiming to reunify Korea, reduce the military and political tension on the Korean Peninsula, which would meet the interests of the entire Korean population and the interests of the normalisation of the situation in the Asian-Pacific region as a whole.

Shevardnadze noted the great importance of the recent proposal of President Kim Il-song that the wall of concrete and iron built by South Koreans along the demilitarized zone be dismantled and free mutual exchanges begin between citizens of North and South Korea.

The conversation was held in a warm, comradely atmosphere.

Rogachev Meets DPRK Disarmament Official

LD3101135790 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1304 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow, 31 Jan (TASS)—Igor Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign affairs minister, today received Ho Seb, acting director of the Institute of Peace and Disarmament of the DPRK Foreign Affairs ministry, who is in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Far East Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

An exchange of opinion took place on the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Both sides put forward practical ideas on ways to reduce the military-political tension in the region, as well as in Asia and the Pacific.

South Korean Party Leader Seeks Closer Ties

LD0102212290 Moscow TASS in English 1256 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo February 1 TASS—South Korean leader Kim Yong-sam has spoken out for developing versatile ties with the Soviet Union.

Kim Yong-sam is a leader of South Korea's new ruling alliance founded by three South Korean political parties several days ago.

At a news conference in Seoul the former chairman of the Reunification Democratic Party said that he would vigorously support the improving of relations with the USSR, since this would help reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula.

Touching on his forthcoming visit to Moscow, Kim noted that, unlike last year's visit, it would be of a totally different nature. "This trip will provide a good opportunity to develop ties with the Soviet Union," he said.

Kim also called for expanding Seoul's contacts with other countries, primarily with neighbouring China. This foreign policy "will help lay a sound groundwork for the reunification of the Korean nation," he said.

On January 22, the South Korean ruling Democratic Justice Party led by President No Tae-u, and two opposition parties—the Reunification Democratic Party and the New Democratic Republican Party led by Kim Chong-pil—announced their intention to unite and form a new ruling political alliance temporarily called the Democratic Liberal Party.

This step is expected to help Kim Yong-sam become president after No's term of office expires in 1993.

Titarenko on Relations With South Korea

SK3001114890 Moscow International Service in Korean
0900 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Interview with Mikhail Titarenko, doctor of philosophy and director of Far East Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, by station reporter Marina Rezhova; date, place not given; Titarenko portion recorded in Russian with superimposed translation into Korean; Rezhova portion read in Korean by station announcer]

[Text] Our station reporter Marina Rezhova interviewed Mikhail Titarenko, doctor of philosophy and director of the Far East Institute under the USSR Academy of Sciences.

[Rezhova] Mikhail Leontyevich, your institute is the first institute that has signed an official agreement with Hanyang University in Seoul for scientific cooperation. What prompted you to make such a decision?

[Titarenko] The Soviet Union wishes very much to create a situation of friendly relations, cooperation, and overall security on its Far Eastern border. The situation on the Korean Peninsula, which can be described as the remains of the cold war, is related to this in many respects. Therefore, Soviet foreign policy and Soviet scholars are making great efforts to resolve the Korean question. In this connection, we think it very important for us to maintain good relations with the DPRK, our long-time partner, and to develop working contacts and mutually advantageous relations with South Korea. I believe that the alleviation of tension on the Korean Peninsula will contribute to the development of a North-South dialogue on Korea. This was our guideline when

we signed an agreement on scientific cooperation with Hanyang University in September 1988.

Professor Kim Yong-chun, a noted political and social activist, businessman, and founder and president of Hanyang University, proposed the signing of this agreement for the South Korean side.

[Rezhova] What events were anticipated in the agreement?

[Titarenko] In the talks for signing this agreement, Professor Kim Yong-chun expressed concern over the shortage of people in the Soviet Union who study Korea, and he expressed his willingness to accept Soviet students for Korean studies at Hanyang University, offering a special fund for this. The agreement envisages holding a bilateral symposium every year. These symposiums have been held twice so far. The next one is scheduled for early this year. It will discuss the issues of peace and security in Northeast Asia and easing tension on the Korean Peninsula. I think (?meetings) of this nature are beneficial.

The improvement in the overall world situation as a result of such events as the improvement of relations between the USSR and the United States, the USSR and Japan, and the progress of arms reduction in Europe is creating favorable conditions for the exploration of solutions to the Korean question and for the reduction of confrontation and the development of North-South dialogue on the (?Korean) Peninsula.

[Rezhova] Both North and South Korea have put forward a number of peace overtures to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula, but the problem has been that these overtures have not been accepted and ended up in a state of stalemate. Both sides have always put forth excuses for rejecting support for the overture of the other side. What is your opinion of this?

[Titarenko] While visiting both Pyongyang and Seoul, I became convinced that the most important thing in this issue is for both sides to build trust toward each other. The lack of trust constitutes the greatest major obstacle to developing dialogue. In making overtures, both the North and the South do not seek the positive factors in the overture of the other side, but instead are afraid of (?limitations). The important thing is not the number of overtures, but practical work to realize the many specific and beneficial proposals that have already been made. Here one cannot expect results overnight. Patience and [word indistinct] are important here. They should learn to listen and understand the other side and to assess the situation realistically.

[Rezhova] Until some time ago, the media of our country described South Korea as a military fascist dictatorial state where thousands of fighters struggling for freedom and democracy languished in prison, and where college students' demonstrations were ruthlessly repressed. We forgot the fact that, despite all the complicated features of the political situation, it is a country

where diligent hard-working people live. The South Korean people's labor has borne fruit. To our surprise, we found out that South Korea is one of the advanced countries of the world.

[Titarenko] Yes, that is right. I visited the premises of such South Korean companies as Hyundai, Daewoo, Lucky-Gold Star, and Samsung. Each of these businesses is one of the 50 largest businesses of the world in terms of efficiency, the volume of goods transacted, and investment made. At the plants of these companies, I witnessed high automation and mechanization of production. I think that we have something to learn from these businesses and that there are good prospects for our working together. We should understand each other better, and should invite each other to visit more. Mutual understanding—this is the way to peace and friendly relations.

[Rezhova] Thank you for your interesting conversation.

Sakhalin Ship Rescues South Korean Sailors

*PM3101152590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
31 Jan 90 Second Edition p 6*

[TASS report: "'Yana' to Rescue"]

[Text] Kholmsk (Sakhalin Oblast), 30 Jan—For an entirely valid reason the Sakhalin Steamship Company's diesel ship Yana will arrive at a Chinese port for repairs tomorrow, 1 day behind schedule.

During a voyage in the Sea of Japan, the Soviet ship spotted a life raft with people aboard. Captain G. Sabirov gave the order to change course. Despite the stormy swell, the 23 survivors were quickly brought on board. They were immediately given the necessary medical aid. The crew fed their unexpected guests and provided them with warm clothing.

The rescued people turned out to be South Korean fishermen from the sunken trawler the Dvol kvan kho [name as transliterated]. They had spent almost 5 days adrift on the high seas. At the South Korean port of Ikhokhan [name as transliterated] the "passengers" were handed over to the official authorities, who expressed profound gratitude to the Sakhalin seamen for the assistance given to their countrymen.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Anniversary of Vietnamese Relations Marked

Leadership Extends Greetings

*PM3101150590 Moscow PRAVDA 30 Jan 90
Second Edition p 5*

[Undated message of greetings from Soviet leadership bodies to SRV leaders on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Vietnam]

[Text] Dear Comrades: On behalf of the Soviet people, we would like to extend our cordial greetings to you and all workers of fraternal Vietnam on the occasion of an important day in the life of our two countries—the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

We are very pleased to note that the development of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation, which originates from the principles of the Great October Revolution and the August Revolution, has steadily served and now serves the fundamental interests of our two nations and the cause of socialism, national independence, and progress. The 1978 treaty of friendship and cooperation has created a lasting and firm legal basis for the Soviet-Vietnamese relations and strengthened the mutual assistance between our two parties and countries.

At present, the Soviet Union and Vietnam are carrying out a process of renovation aimed at enabling our two countries to develop more dynamically. The forms and methods of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation are being perfected and efficiency in cooperation is being enhanced. The coordination of our action in the international arena and our efforts to establish relations of security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region are being strengthened.

The Soviet people treasure their traditional friendship with the Vietnamese people and are resolved to continue developing our mutually beneficial cooperation.

We wish the Vietnamese workers great achievements in implementing the program of social renovation laid down by the Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam to achieve national socioeconomic development.

SRV Sends Greetings

*PM3101151590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan
90 Second Edition p 5*

[Undated greetings message from SRV leaders to Soviet leaders on the 40th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Vietnam]

[Text] To Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet;

Comrade N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers;

Dear Comrades:

We send you and the entire fraternal Soviet people most ardent greetings on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the SRV.

Vietnam's establishment of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries at a time when the Vietnamese people were waging a difficult, fierce struggle against aggression and when the

Democratic Republic of Vietnam was blockaded and isolated, was of exceptionally great significance for the cause of the Vietnamese revolution and ushered in a new stage in the development of Soviet-Vietnamese relations.

Over the past decades our people have received increasingly strong support and growing effective aid from the Soviet Union. Soviet-Vietnamese friendship founded on the common ideals of socialism which link our peoples has steadily developed and strengthened. This was one of the decisive factors in the Vietnamese people's victories in the cause of defending and developing the homeland. On behalf of Vietnam's Communists and the entire Vietnamese people we express sincere gratitude to the CPSU, the USSR Government, and the Soviet people for this invaluable aid and support.

The line of renewing society advanced by the 6th Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress and the perestroika course of the 27th CPSU Congress ushered in a qualitatively new stage in the development of the revolutionary cause of the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples and in Vietnamese-Soviet relations. Continuing and developing the splendid traditions of lasting fraternal friendship, our parties and countries have today embarked on a path of resolutely renewing the forms and methods of Soviet-Vietnamese interaction and enhancing its effectiveness so that it efficiently serves the cause of building socialism in the USSR and the SRV and actively helps to strengthen peace, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia, in the Asia and Pacific region, and throughout the world.

As previously, the CPV, the SRV Government, and the Vietnamese people will make indefatigable efforts in favor of further strengthening and developing friendship and multifaceted cooperation with the Soviet Union. This is the principled course of the CPV and the Vietnamese state and the sacred international duty of every Vietnamese.

We wish the fraternal Soviet people the successful realization of the perestroika course and fruitful preparations for the 28th CPSU Congress.

[Signed] Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee;

Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the SRV Council of State;

Do Muoi, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers;

Le Quang Dao, chairman of the SRV National Assembly.

Foreign Ministers Exchange Messages

PM0102141990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
30 Jan 90 Morning Edition p4

[TASS report: "Telegrams Exchanged"]

[Text] To mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the SRV, the two countries' foreign ministers have exchanged congratulatory telegrams.

In his telegram, E.A. Shevardnadze said that the past decades have proved convincingly the lasting vital strength of Soviet-Vietnamese friendship and its importance in terms of resolving the tasks of socialist building in the USSR and SRV and defending the peoples' independence and freedom and social progress.

Using the accumulated potential of their mutual ties and focusing on common values, our parties and countries have embarked on a course of revolutionary restructuring and renewal and are actively seeking new forms and methods of cooperation that will make it possible to raise our relations in various spheres to a qualitatively higher level.

We welcome the successful development of fruitful collaboration between the USSR and the SRV in the international arena and in efforts to strengthen peace and security in the Asian and Pacific region. The Soviet Union is deeply in solidarity with the constructive line taken by Vietnam and the countries of Indochina. This line aims to achieve a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodia problem, end confrontation in Southeast Asia, and establish relations of peace, stability, and good-neighborly cooperation in the region.

In his telegram, Nguyen Co Thach stressed that the past 40 years have been characterized by the steady development and strengthening of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship on the basis of the October Revolution's ideas and in the interests of building socialism in our countries. By always closely coordinating their actions in the international arena, Vietnam and the USSR have actively contributed to strengthening peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress throughout the world. I am firmly convinced, he said, that the processes of social renewal in Vietnam and restructuring in the Soviet Union will help to further strengthen and deepen our traditional friendship and enhance the effectiveness of multifaceted Vietnamese-Soviet collaboration and will give a new boost to socialist building in our countries and the strengthening of peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Asian and Pacific region, and the whole world.

Rogachev, SRV Envoy Speak

BK0102090890 Moscow International Service
in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] A meeting of representatives of Moscow residents was held at the House of Friendship with Peoples of Foreign Countries on 30 January on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam.

A Radio Moscow correspondent reports:

This memorable anniversary is being widely celebrated in the Soviet Union. The central newspapers have published the greetings messages exchanged between Soviet and Vietnamese leaders and leading organs on this occasion. They have also featured commentaries and

articles dealing more comprehensively with Soviet-Vietnamese friendship and cooperation. Soviet television has aired a new documentary on current life in Vietnam. A photo exhibition was opened at the House of Friendship to introduce the activities of the USSR-Vietnam Friendship Association to meeting participants before the grand event.

Comrade Igor Rogachev, Soviet deputy foreign minister, read a report detailing the development of Soviet-Vietnamese diplomatic relations over the past 40 years. Touching on the current stage of cooperation between the two countries, Comrade Igor Rogachev stressed in particular:

[Begin Rogachev recording in Russian fading into Vietnamese translation] Large-scale processes are being carried out in the Soviet Union and Vietnam to achieve restructuring and renovation. In the immediate future, many complex, urgent tasks remain to be fulfilled. It is now high time for us to accelerate our cooperation in all directions. A broad path should be opened for new forms of cooperation; direct relations between worker collectives should be established; and joint enterprises should be built.

We are pleased to point out that fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and the SRV is being developed in the international arena in the efforts aimed at consolidating peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. We are grateful to our Vietnamese comrades for their active support of the Soviet external political line. The Soviet people treasure their traditional friendship with fraternal Vietnam and are resolved to continue consolidating Soviet-Vietnamese comradely solidarity in the creative building of socialism. [end recording]

Those present in the meeting hall warmly welcomed Nguyen Manh Kam, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, when he took the floor. Comrade Nguyen Manh Kam, one of the first cadres of the Vietnamese Embassy in Moscow, speaks Russian fluently. You are now invited to listen to his speech:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Kam recording in Russian fading into Vietnamese translation] Dear Comrades: Looking back at the past 4 decades, we stress with satisfaction that throughout that period the relations between our two countries have developed very successfully. The Soviet Union stood by Vietnam's side during the difficult years of war as well as the years of creative construction in peace. The Vietnamese highly appreciate the extremely great assistance given to Vietnam by the Soviet people. I sincerely thank you for organizing this meeting. I also thank you for your heartfelt words about our people and Soviet-Vietnamese friendship. [end recording]

Ambassador Gives Address

*LD3001164990 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 30 Jan 90*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today sees the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our country and Vietnam. Taking part in our program is Nguyen Manh Kam, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the USSR:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Kam recording in Russian] Dear Soviet Comrades! Forty years ago, at a time when the Vietnamese people's first war of resistance against the colonialist aggressors had entered its most bitter period, the recognition by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries became for our people a priceless, inspiring, factor in strengthening our determination to achieve victory and to uphold the independence we had recently gained.

This important historic event was a natural step in the development of close ties of friendship, the establishment and consolidation of which are closely linked with the name of Ho Chi Minh, the great patriot and first Vietnamese communist who discovered from the great Lenin and the October Revolution the path to the salvation of his homeland and the salvation of his people.

The Vietnamese people, from generation to generation and with a sense of gratitude, will remember the immense assistance and valuable support rendered by the Soviet Union, seeing in this an important guarantee for all their successes.

Today, in the conditions of perestroika in the Soviet Union and renewal in Vietnam, especially after the meeting between Comrade Van Linh and Comrade Gorbachev in May 1987, our cooperation has received a new boost in development in all spheres.

Life shows that true and strong friendship and all-round cooperation on the basis of Marxism-Leninism is a priceless property of both our peoples and an important contribution to the cause of the revolution and peace. The Vietnamese people will do everything expected of it to raise our relations to a qualitatively new stage of development which meets the aspirations of our peoples and is in keeping with the strategic course of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese state in relations with the CPSU and the Soviet Union.

We firmly believe and sincerely wish that the Soviet people will successfully implement the revolutionary perestroika in the interests of the prosperity of the great Soviet Union, in the name of the dynamic development of socialism and in the name of peace throughout the world.

Thank you for your attention.

Zaykov Attends Reception

PM3101152290 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
31 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "To Mark the Anniversary"]

[Text] The Soviet people value their traditional friendship with fraternal Vietnam and are fully determined to continue to strengthen comradeship in constructive socialist building. I.A. Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, said this on 30 January, speaking in Moscow at a meeting of the Soviet public to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and the SRV.

Nguyen Manh Kam, Vietnamese ambassador to the USSR, took part in the meeting.

On the same day the SRV's ambassador to the USSR held a reception to mark the anniversary.

It was attended by L.N. Zaykov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, leaders of a number of ministries and departments, and other officials.

Vo Chi Cong Gives Interview

PM0102145390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
30 Jan 90 Second Edition p 4

[Interview in Hanoi with Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the SRV Council of State, by own correspondent Mikhail Domogatskikh under the rubric "Our Interview": "Call of the Times"; date unspecified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam were established 40 years ago. Mikhail Domogatskikh, PRAVDA's Hanoi correspondent, met with Vo Chi Cong, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the SRV Council of State, and asked him to answer questions associated with this portentous date in our countries' history.

[Domogatskikh] Comrade Chairman, how would you assess the importance of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam for the fate of the Vietnamese revolution over the past 40 years?

[Vo Chi Cong] Vietnamese-Soviet friendship, which was born and grew stronger under the direct influence of Comrade Ho Chi Minh, goes back many years. Back in the days when Vietnam was under the oppression of colonial servitude and was merely seeking a way of salvation, Ho Chi Minh wrote in April 1926 in the newspaper PARIYA, which he published in Paris:

"We must set our sights on alliance and friendship with the Land of the Soviets—the only country in the world today which can give the oppressed peoples absolutely honest, fraternal, selfless, and equal aid."

The Vietnamese revolution always has been linked with the profound and widespread ideas of the October Revolution, with the Soviet people's great victory in the war against fascism, and with the mighty and effective help from the fraternal Soviet people.

The establishment of diplomatic relations between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the SRV) and the Soviet Union, China, and other socialist countries in January 1950 was a very significant event for the Vietnamese revolution. It was an important landmark in Vietnam's relations with the Soviet Union and the other socialist states. At a time when Vietnam was blockaded, isolated, and at the height of a war against aggression, this recognition of our revolutionary state was a powerful political support for us and enhanced the prestige of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. A new stage was thereby opened whereby the fraternal countries started to give the Vietnamese people material aid, inspiring them to win the war against the aggressors.

Over the past 40 years there have been great and profound changes in the world, and the Vietnamese revolution, overcoming difficulties and trials, has won glorious victories. The friendship between Vietnam and the Soviet Union has remained unchanged throughout this period.

The CPSU, the Soviet Government, and the USSR's peoples gave the Vietnamese people sincere and priceless help in liberating and reunifying our motherland and in building socialism. Life shows that the firm friendship and all-around cooperation between our countries is a valuable asset for our peoples, which base their relations on the great and noble ideals of great October and socialism. The CPV, the SRV Government, and the Vietnamese people are grateful to the CPSU, the Soviet Government, and the fraternal Soviet people for their help and support, and assure them that they will cherish and strengthen this everlasting living friendship.

[Domogatskikh] Our countries have embarked on the path of perestroika and renewal. How do you view the prospects for all-around cooperation between our countries under these new historical conditions, Comrade Chairman?

[Vo Chi Cong] Renewing relations between our countries is a requirement of the times in line with the perestroika processes in the Soviet Union and the renewal in Vietnam initiated by the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th CPV Congress respectively. It also accords with present-day trends in international development. Under the new historical conditions cooperation between the SRV and the USSR—maintaining continuity and developing the reliability typical of mutual relations between our countries—should at the same time overcome the shortcomings of the old, obsolete cooperation mechanism. We must make better use of our potential and enhance the effectiveness of collaboration in both states' interests.

Now that our countries are fully resolved to restructure and renew themselves in order to give new strength to socialism, there are favorable conditions for raising Vietnamese-Soviet relations to a new level. Whereas previously Vietnam mainly received aid from the Soviet Union at state level, we are now starting to expand production sharing and establish direct ties between sectors and enterprises on the basis of economic accountability and mutual advantage.

The SRV and the USSR continue to cooperate closely in resolving such important international problems as the struggle for peace, friendship, and cooperation in Southeast Asia, the Asia-Pacific region, and worldwide.

However, the perestroika and renewal processes have only just started. There are many problems which will require our parties and states to further improve their ties and seek new and more diverse forms (and corresponding measures) of cooperation. All this is necessary to achieve weightier results in the interests of perestroika and renewal for the sake of the socialist cause in Vietnam and the Soviet Union. The resolution of these problems will be our contribution to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and socialism worldwide.

Alekseyev Comments on Event

OW0202095290 Moscow in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Commentary by station observer Alekseyev]

[Text] Forty years ago on 30 January 1950, the Soviet Union and Vietnam established diplomatic relations. Our station observer Alekseyev writes the following commentary:

The establishment of Soviet-Vietnamese diplomatic relations is a historic event and has become a milestone in the development of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It is reasonable to believe that this cooperation has withstood the test of time.

The Soviet Union has always sided with the Vietnamese people both in times of war and during peaceful construction. The present cooperation between the two countries is based on a reliable foundation—that is, the Soviet-Vietnamese treaty signed in 1978. After the signing of the treaty, some circles in Asia predicted that the treaty would intensify the situation in Southeast Asia and pose a threat to peace. They even alleged that the Soviet Union intended to rely on the 1978 treaty in using Vietnam as a tool for Soviet expansion in Asia.

Many years have elapsed since then. Today only ignorant people will believe such absurd allegations because they are totally contrary to reality. One example is the Soviet and Vietnamese attitude toward mediating the Cambodian situation. This question has a direct bearing on peace and stability in Southeast Asia. Several years ago, the Soviet Union and Vietnam reached a conclusion that Vietnam's troop withdrawal from Cambodia would

be of great significance for the mediation of the Cambodian situation. The troop withdrawal was completed last September.

Regrettably, the Khmer opposition factions, especially the Khmer Rouge, have taken advantage of the Vietnamese troop withdrawal by stepping up military maneuvers against the Phnom Penh government. Under such circumstances, the Soviet Union and Vietnam have exerted every effort to stop bloodshed and bring the Cambodian question back to the negotiating table for a political settlement. With Phnom Penh's thorough understanding, Moscow and Hanoi have called for temporarily suspending arms supply to the conflicting factions. The Soviet Union and Vietnam have agreed, in principle, to Australian Foreign Minister Evan's proposal calling for reinforcing the United Nation's role in mediating the Cambodian situation. Along with other countries concerned, the Soviet Union and Vietnam (have assisted) the resumption of political dialogue among all Khmer factions. The next round of dialogue attended by representatives from other countries will be held on 26 February.

There are other facts showing the constructive and peace-loving nature of Soviet-Vietnamese cooperation. After consultations, the Soviet Union and Vietnam decided to reduce the Soviet military presence in Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay. The decision, which has already been implemented, has been praised in Asia and the whole world as a contribution to consolidating peace in the Asia-Pacific region.

In a message of congratulations to Vietnamese leaders on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the CPSU Central Committee, Supreme Soviet, and Council of Ministers emphasized that the Soviet people cherish their traditional friendship with the Vietnamese people and are determined to continue to develop the traditional cooperation.

Envoy Says No Soviet Arms to Cambodia Since Dec

BK3101003890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0024 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 31 (AFP)—The Soviet Union has not made any arms deliveries to Cambodia since December and none was underway, the Soviet ambassador to Phnom Penh Rashit Khamidulin said here Tuesday [30 January].

Mr. Khamidulin said that past deliveries were given entirely without charge.

"I prefer to speak of disinterested aid," he said at a press conference on Soviet affairs.

Moscow recently proposed a moratorium on arms deliveries to the warring Cambodian factions in a bid to help find a political solution to the 11-year-old conflict.

But Mr. Khamidulin stressed that Moscow could recommence its arms deliveries "if this were necessary."

"I can assure you that we will fulfill our obligations under accords that have been signed between our two governments," if arms deliveries to the guerrilla groups continued, he said.

The Soviet Union is the main arms supplier to the Cambodian Government of Prime Minister Hun Sen, which is fighting a resistance guerrilla coalition that includes the Marxist Khmer Rouge and two non-communist factions loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Prime Minister Son Sann.

The Khmer Rouge is supported primarily by China and Thailand, and is the coalition's most powerful military force. The non-communist factions are backed principally by Western nations. The coalition holds Cambodia's U.N. seat.

Mr. Khamidulin said that "a lot of progress was made" during the meeting of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council in Paris on January 15-16 to discuss Cambodia.

The permanent members are the United States, Soviet Union, China, France and Great Britain.

"The remaining problem involves China, with which there are some disagreements, even if it has accepted the Paris decisions," he said.

The five nations will meet again in New York City on February 9-10.

Mr. Khamidulin said he expected there would be "some progress on the concrete problems still being debated, such as the exact role of the United Nations or the length of the interim period" during which a U.N. administration would run Cambodia leading to supervised elections, as proposed under an Australian peace plan.

The Australian plan is currently at the center of a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at finding a negotiated solution.

Mr. Khamidulin said that comments made last week by Mr. Hun Sen were "satisfactory" and would allow "the process of negotiations to be resumed."

Mr. Hun Sen proposed that two administrative zones be set up, with each side administering the area it controls. He also suggested creating an interim national council, to include representatives of the two governments, until elections were held. The council would hold Cambodia's U.N. seat.

The opposition government is the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea, from which Prince Sihanouk resigned on January 24.

The Phnom Penh regime was installed by Vietnam in January 1979 shortly after Hanoi's troops were sent into Cambodia to overthrow a Khmer Rouge government blamed for killing hundreds of thousands of civilians during its nearly four-year isolationist rule.

Vietnam's main ally is the Soviet Union, and the Phnom Penh government has been recognized by East bloc nations and India.

Zorin on Khmer Rouge Resurgence, U.S. Policy

LD2801132290 Moscow in English to North America
0000 GMT 28 Jan 90

["Weekly Commentary" by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] How does Washington treat the notorious Red Khmers and their leader Pol Pot? This, to my mind, is not only the question of politics, but of morals as well. Let's recall that the dictator Pol Pot ruled over Cambodia at the end of the seventies. Over the 3 years of his rule he destroyed 3 million people out of the 8 million—the total population of Cambodia. In the postwar history there was no other example of the policy of genocide than the one by which the Red Khmers and the leader Pol Pot defamed themselves.

Madame Tutwiler, a spokeswoman of the State Department, declared in Washington recently that she experiences the feeling of disgust in relation to the Red Khmers. She underlined that an all embracing settlement would be the best way that would prevent the Red Khmers from reinstating their influence in Cambodia with the help of force. But the newspaper WASHINGTON POST wrote on the same day that after the withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia the Red Khmers were moving closer towards the resumption of their rule in that country. WASHINGTON POST claimed that the Red Khmers had powerful allies, including such an indirect ally as the United States.

Indeed there are some facts that serve to confirm this. The rotating American administration maintained contacts with the Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk and gave certain support to Pol Pot. Largely thanks to Washington's efforts, Cambodia's seat at the United Nations is occupied today not by the government staying in the country and exercising power in it, but by the coalition staying in exile with the Red Khmers playing the dominant role. In the last few weeks Red Khmer units that had remained on Thai territory for several years have launched a broad offensive with the aim of capturing the Cambodian capital and returning to power. This military offensive revealed the total inability to act of other members of the coalition, of whom Norodom Sihanouk was the leader.

The only real force that threatens the Cambodians once again is the well trained and armed Red Khmer Army. Incidentally, where does this army take weapons from? Some reports indicate that these weapons have largely been paid up by the American taxpayers' money. Morals in politics are not the question of minor importance. If so, the Americans should not feel indifferent knowing that the name of their country is associated with such a

political figure as Pol Pot, even if the cooperation with him is indirect, as the newspaper WASHINGTON POST writes.

Near East & South Asia

Bovin Reviews Mail on Arab-Israeli Conflict

PM3101111990 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 5

[Review by A. Bovin: "Reading the Mail. About Intifadah."]

[Text] My article "The Intifadah. What Next?" (Issue No 239, 1989) gave rise to an abundance of mail. Three critical articles were published (A. Smirnov's article in No 250, and letters from A. Zotov and Arab journalists in No 266). Some readers are astonished. "IZVESTIYA," E. Belyy writes, for example, "always has been famed for objectivity in presenting information; this is not flattery, but a statement of fact. The best proof is the 'anti-IZVESTIYA' orgies by the Black Hundreds [reference to extreme reactionary grouping of late 19th, early 20th centuries]. Other editorial offices have not been accorded this 'honor.' But in the situation regarding responses to A. Bovin's article, it seems to me, the newspaper has betrayed its own traditions of objectivity. What was striking was the tendentious 'anti-Bovin' selection. Is it possible that the newspaper did not receive a single letter in support of A. Bovin? And if it did, why was it not printed?" I am glad to reassure Comrade Belyy. The proportion of letters "for" and "against" was 9 to 1. As regards the "selection": While giving the floor just to advocates of the traditional position, the editorial office meant to "balance" the position with the present review.

However, before I start to "balance" things, I would like to show another two negative responses to complete the collection. "The committee of the Soviet public 'Against Diplomatic Relations with Israel,'" Ye. Yevseyev, chairman of this committee (Moscow), writes, "welcomes the denunciation of the pro-Israeli and pro-Zionist stance of political observer A. Bovin in the columns of your newspaper. We propose that he be removed from the post he holds because he is an agent of a foreign state—an Israeli agent in the Soviet Union, who, during the stagnation period, invariably served as a mouthpiece for Zionist propaganda and is trying to continue his dirty work in conditions of perestroika." Reader S. Kozakov (Rostov-na-Donu) proposes that I be impaled. "Zionists, he states, 'have finally lost all sense of proportion and are becoming brazen. It is time to open labor camps for Russia's slanderers. He has insulted the nation on its own territory and should be sent to prison. That's what.'"

In the ground lying between A. Smirnov's arguments and S. Kozakov's emotions, there are the critical observations of A. Kuznetsov (Riga), A. Kuzmin (Lyubertsy), N. Khalevin (Sverdlovsk), M. Varlamov (Kuybyshev), V.

Ozerov (Leningrad), N. Kuchin, and V. Kuroyedov (Saransk). Also ranking with these is a letter from M. Munzir, a correspondent on the Palestinian periodical AL-HURRIYAH.

Now about the "noises of approval." The loudest note here is probably the recognition of my objectivity in presenting the Near East theme, and of my attempt to break the existing "rules of the game" in propaganda and politics, to shatter the traditional stereotypes, to tell the truth. This is noted by readers Ye. Soroka (Moscow), G. Chernikov (Semipalatinsk), Ts. Kravchuk (Riga), G. Didenko (Kalinin), K. Rozhkova (Shakhty), A. Meltser (Odessa), S. Rodionova (Leningrad), A. Kuryshv (Tashkent), A. Shapovalov (Volgograd), R. Guryanova (Kiev), D. Sarkisyan (Yerevan), M. Kucherova (Riga), and many, many others.

In the same vein, readers also analyze the articles of A. Smirnov and (to a lesser degree) A. Zotov. They criticize their stereotyped, one-sided approach to the analysis of the Near East situation, the prevalence of propagandist stereotypes over the demands of real policy, and the uncritical acceptance of Arab friends' versions and assessments. So, for instance, M. Volfzon (Moscow) believes that A. Smirnov's article is written in the "old and tedious tones of the press characteristic of the times of stagnation." A. Smirnov's viewpoint, M. Safyan (Odessa) writes, is "unconstructive, static, and offers no hope"; it advocates "the preservation of the explosive situation in the Near East." N. Rytvin (Kiev) takes the view that A. Smirnov's article "presents Arab-Israeli relations unobjectively, and sometimes in a false light." Here is one more quotation. "A. Bovin's critics," A. Tokov (Navoi) notes, "lack impartial analysis. Just as in the recent past, they approach everything from the same angle, equipped with old stereotypes and with a total bias toward one side."

It seems to me that readers grasped the essence correctly. The debate is not about details, or partial issues, but about whether the new political thinking is applicable to the Near East situation. My "task of tasks" in actual fact consisted of breaking with the one-sidedness and bias which characterized our Near East policy and its propaganda backup for many years, and to ensure a distribution of light and shadow more in keeping with reality.

The readers believe that posing the question in this way is of importance not only for drawing lessons from the past, but for formulating and resolving current political tasks. "It seems to me," M. Anichkin (Moscow) writes, "that despite the correctness of the USSR's basic approach to the problem of a Near East settlement, our country's tactics in this question and the activities of its diplomacy are marked by extreme inflexibility. The ideas and approaches of the recent past still prevail in them, and, if we continue to proceed along this path, we stand to lose more than we are likely to gain."

I must say that, as of late, our Near East policy has become much more flexible and balanced, taking

account of the great variety of interests which are intertwined in that region, even though it is true that it is not that easy to overcome the inertia of the past.

At the focus of the letter debate is the question of diplomatic relations with Israel. The overwhelming majority of comrades who have sent in their reactions, allow me to mention just L. Aronovskiy (Leningrad), V. Krichevskiy (Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy), and M. Stolyar (Sverdlovsk), resolutely favor the restoration of these relations.

Readers maintain that diplomatic relations should not be regarded as a reward for good conduct in the international arena and that therefore their restoration should not be made dependent on the fulfillment of any sort of conditions. In the opinion of M. Chernyy (Moscow), "as to the restoration of diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel, it is obvious to any unprejudiced and realistically thinking person now, 22 years after their rupture, that this was a mistake, a theatrical gesture; since this action of ours was of no benefit to us, it did not increase the number of our sincere and reliable friends, and it did not contribute to a stable and long-term growth of our prestige and influence in this region. On the contrary, the rupture narrowed and reduced our real potential of influencing the situation in that area or the sides involved in the conflict. Moreover, it is not surprising that Arab leaders are turning more often to the United States than to the USSR for assistance or mediation, since the former has retained relations with both sides. In accordance with international law and diplomatic practice," M. Chernyy goes on, "the establishment of diplomatic relations is by no means tantamount to the endorsement of the foreign, not to mention domestic policy of another state. It is an act of recognition of the legal status of the given state. No more. The Soviet Union has never questioned the legality of the existence of the state of Israel; it was one of the first to recognize it. It is possible (and necessary) to criticize various negative aspects of the activities of the Israeli leadership just like the leadership of any other country in the world, including one's own. What has this to do with diplomatic relations? We had diplomatic relations with Uganda when the bloodthirsty sadist Idi Amin was in power there, with the Central African Republic (read empire) when the cannibal (in the direct sense of the word) Bokassa ruled there, with Argentina when the terrorist military regime was in power there, and with many other similar regimes. And we were right to maintain diplomatic relations with them."

In my opinion, these arguments shed sufficient light on the theoretical essence of this matter. At the same time it has to be admitted that the transition from theory to practical policy is frequently not that easy since the final decision is influenced by a multitude of objective and subjective, and frequently contradictory, factors. The new political thinking, A. Shefer (Kuybyshev) notes, "makes it necessary to take a new sober look at reality and to discard old stereotypes, which can be painful because it may not suit all our friends in the world.

Nevertheless, policy must be honest; otherwise, we will not overcome the impasse."

Readers are aware of the extraordinary complexity and involved nature of the Near East conflict and are not prone to take optimistic declarations and statements on trust. Skepticism in respect to achieving a peaceful settlement in the foreseeable future is justified. P. Raynov (Odessa) notes. "Because of a number of domestic policy reasons, the parties to the conflict lack the maneuverability necessary for decisive progress toward a settlement. The coalition cabinet in Israel based on a contradictory and unstable alliance of two rivals—the Labor Party and the 'Likud' bloc—is hardly capable of reacting adequately to peace proposals from outside and even less of taking major political steps toward a settlement. The PLO leadership, in turn, is forced to develop its peace initiative not just in conditions of constant attacks from Palestinian splinter groups, but it also has to take account of opposition inside the organization. The domestic situation in a number of Arab countries that are of key importance to a settlement is also unstable. Thus the sides involved in the conflict are deprived of the opportunity at the current, 'prenegotiation' stage of the peace process of agreeing to necessary compromises, not to mention taking further steps toward peace which call for serious reciprocal concessions." Apart from intraregional obstacles to peace in the Near East, P. Raynov goes on, there are also external obstacles. "The actions of the great powers and other countries which have interests in the region are not always directed at peace and a relaxation of tension. The established influx of diverse weapons which have poured in for decades from various parts of the world... speaks for itself."

The topic of arms sales is also touched upon by other comrades. A Soviet officer who is in Syria as a UN observer (this is why his name is not given), puts it like this: "Our foreign policy traditionally tries to ingratiate itself with Arab regimes because they represent a vast market for arms and combat hardware." It is possible that the term "ingratiate" is not the most accurate in this context, but the idea itself deserves attention. R. Zaychuk (Kharkov) approaches the same problem from a different angle: "It seems that in some countries the law prohibits arms exports to the planet's 'flashpoints.' It might be a good idea to discuss this at a Supreme Soviet session." I cannot speak for the Supreme Soviet, but for us journalists it is high time to open a serious debate on our country's role in world arms exports.

One more theme stands out clearly in the readers' reactions. It seems that the time has come for a serious discussion of Zionism and anti-Semitism. Some readers write that an arbitrary, broad, and nonscientific interpretation of Zionism is directing propaganda and ideological work into the wrong channel and encouraging a revival of anti-Semitism. "The main idea of political Zionism," P. Zevin (Moscow) maintains, "lies in the reunification of Jews in their historical homeland—Israel. As a result of a UN decision (and with great

support from the Soviet Union) this idea was implemented. Zionism does not pursue any other objectives (for instance, discrimination against the non-Jewish population). Therefore, the interpretation of Zionism as a form of racism is fundamentally incorrect." M. Tsyvkin (Leningrad) points to another facet of this problem: "In Zionism, just as in any other 'ism' there are many currents. If one so wishes, one can identify it with any one of them—for instance, Kahane's movement. But that would be the same thing as judging communism on the example of Pol Pot. By the same token, the movement which was originally conceived to save the nation has been declared and branded as a version of racism. In the Soviet Union the bogey of Zionism is used by certain people as a cover for anti-Semitism."

Many letters state that the wave of glasnost is being actively used to propagandize anti-Semitism. This is stated by N. Rayevskaya (Grodno) and Ye. Dubovik (Minsk). Here is a quote from the letter of reader S. Mayevskiy (Kishinev): "After many years of 'anti-Zionist' (essentially anti-Jewish) propaganda, anti-Semitism has raised its head and come out into the open. I believe that the restoration of diplomatic relations with Israel and the development of multifaceted (economic, cultural, scientific, and technical) relations with it will have a beneficial impact on the attitude toward Soviet Jews in our country."

In conclusion, a number of readers' reactions to the critical, you could say, denunciatory letter from the Arab journalists Abu-Bakir Husayn (Egypt), and Ahmad al-Nu'man and Salam Musafair (Kuwait).

A. Abramyan (Yerevan): This letter "reveals and exposes the negative trends in the Arab world which organically cannot digest Israel, they do not even want to hear of the existence of a sovereign Israel, and try to cast aspersions on and thwart a peaceful settlement. It is not worth arguing with the authors of this letter because the letter is full of abuse and unsubstantiated accusations." Reader A. Valiyev from Andizhan questions the moral right of the Arab journalists to lecture us. "At one point," he writes, "my state broke off diplomatic relations with Israel. This step was taken in support of Arab states. We gave the Arabs tremendous, largely unpaid, assistance. When we ourselves were in a difficult situation in Afghanistan, we came up against the Arabs' military assistance to the mujahidin. Many readers remind the 'Egyptian journalist' that Egypt itself has long had diplomatic relations with Israel."

L. Gazenput (Moscow) sent in a very angry letter: The Arab journalists have taken it upon themselves "to lecture our state on the topic as to with whom it may and with whom it may not have diplomatic relations, which are customary in the civilized world. They have done so as if they were accredited in the principality of Lichtenstein rather than in the capital of a major state. How can this sort of thing be published in IZVESTIYA? It is an insult to us, readers and citizens of that major state." I do not share Comrade Gazenput's indignation, although

I am grateful to him for his vigorous defense. After all, what is important is the quality of advice, not where it comes from.

I have often been asked: Do tell us, why has your newspaper published this pretentious letter which is so disrespectful toward you? It is very simple, I reply. This letter, by its content and style, shows better than any of my arguments who is who in the Near East.

Finally, I would like to thank all comrades who sent their reactions to the newspaper, and, naturally, especially those who backed me up. And second, my apologies to the authors of the letters whose names are not mentioned in the roundup.

Comparison—Shevardnadze-Singh Meeting

PM2901131990

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian on 28 January carries in its First Edition on page 5 a TASS report on the 27 January meeting between USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and S.K. Singh, foreign secretary of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. The PRAVDA item, entitled "Meeting Held," has been compared with the Moscow TASS English version published in the 29 January Soviet Union DAILY REPORT, page 15, revealing the following variations:

Column one, fourth full paragraph, sentence one, PRAVDA begins: Eduard Shevardnadze, political... (deleting dateline)

Same sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...the Soviet Foreign Minister 27 January.

The Indian diplomat... (substituting date for "on Saturday")

Column two, paragraph eleven, only sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...orgy of killings, pogroms, and trampling on... (subbing "pogroms" for "rampaging")

Same sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...safety of people.

"I want to... (deleting words and picking up ensuing paragraph)

Page 16, column one, paragraph one, only sentence, PRAVDA reads: ...build their future. (PRAVDA ends, deleting last two paragraphs)

Sub-Saharan Africa

Status of Ethiopian Conflict, Talks Reviewed

PM3001120390 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[V. Kryukov report: "Hopes for Calm; Talks Between Ethiopian Government and Armed Opposition Have Ended in Rome"]

[Text] Addis Ababa—Judging by the rhythm of life in the Ethiopian capital, it is difficult to imagine that somewhere in the north some 100 km from Addis Ababa an alarming and extremely tense situation reigns, the TASS correspondent in Ethiopia reports to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. The war has still not reached the capital, it cannot be felt here. You hardly meet any soldiers in the street, and there is not a suggestion of combat equipment. More often you meet road-building vehicles covering the highways and avenues with asphalt. In the evenings it is noisy and cheerful in the restaurants, bars, and cafes. In the city nonetheless a curfew introduced several years ago is in operation, although the patrols operate mainly at night.

Very recently the situation in Addis Ababa was much more alarming. In the provinces north of the capital there was bloody fighting between government forces and Tigre People's Liberation Front [TPLF] detachments. The situation was aggravated by the army's frequent defeats.

Making an appeal to the people 18 October, Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile-Mariam called for the final and irreversible rout of the opposition forces which had infringed the state's territorial integrity.

"The country's unity is in the greatest danger," he stated. "So-called TPLF detachments carrying out combat operations against government troops are working with Eritrean separatist forces acting as their direct helpers."

The president described the TPLF as a "treacherous territorial grouping" based on narrow nationalist interests and setting Ethiopians against Ethiopians. "The people will not allow the country to be turned into a second Lebanon," Mengistu Haile-Mariam stressed.

Yes, that's what happened, and now the tension has abated somewhat in connection with the Rome talks between the Ethiopian government delegation and TPLF representatives on a peaceful solution to the military confrontation. But the sides are continuing to conduct a propaganda campaign, pinning unpleasant labels on each other and keeking accusations of all manner of serious faults.

What is the TPLF and what are its aims? The front was created a year after the victory of the 1974 people's democratic revolution which overthrew the monarchy. Under heavy pressure from the people's movement for freedom and social progress Haile Selassie I, the last emperor of Ethiopia, was forced to give up his powers as head of state. New pages are being opened in the country's history. The leaders of the TPLF, formed not without help from another opposition movement which has operated in Ethiopia as of the beginning of the 1960's—the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF], which advocates the secession of this northern province from Ethiopia—are stating that they took this step to put an end to the military's usurpation of power and to establish democratic rule throughout the country's territory...

The TPLF, stating that it is expressing the peoples' aspirations, claims that there is no freedom of speech or press freedom and that human rights are being infringed, and demands the removal of the present leadership and the introduction of a multiparty system. Recently the TPLF leaders have added fresh statements concerning their support for the ELF's struggle for Eritrea's secession.

The unstable situation in northern Ethiopia caused by the combat operations is having a negative impact on the situation in the country. The war is preventing socioeconomic development, more than 50 percent of the national budget is being spent on it.

The situation in Ethiopia is aggravated by the latest drought in the north, which threatens a repeat of the 1984-1985 tragedy. More than 2 million people are threatened with starvation owing to the unfavorable weather conditions this year in Tigre and Eritrea, where there has been virtually no rain. A most acute situation has taken shape in the areas affected by the war. The government believes that the combat operations initiated by the TPLF were largely the reason for the increasing threat of starvation for many thousands of people who had been deprived of the chance to engage in agricultural labor. The front believes that the central leadership is to blame for the situation which has been created; it claims that the government is creating obstacles to the delivery of foodstuffs to the drought regions.

All the same common sense is gradually prevailing over emotions. It is becoming obvious for the warring sides that the war is no way out of the situation which has been created since it leads to an impasse and is blocking the path to overcoming differences. The first round of preliminary talks held in November in Rome between an Ethiopian government delegation and TPLF representatives and the recently ended second round give grounds for optimism.

In Rome the delegations discussed a number of procedural questions essential for beginning full-scale peace talks. The result of the 8-day meeting was an accord to select mediators and observers at the future talks. The sides agreed that representatives from Italy and Kenya would fulfill the intermediary functions, and the observers were from Nigeria, the Sudan, Uganda and Sweden. They decided to postpone the remaining questions concerning the number of delegation members at the talks, the place and time where they would be held, and the selection of TPLF and ELF representatives until the next meeting there, in Rome, 20 March.

The Ethiopian people live in hope of a peaceful settlement to the military conflict which has lasted many years. It is tired of war and economic instability.

Ethiopian Rebel Shipping Attacks Discussed

*EA2901200190 Moscow International Service
in Amharic 1530 GMT 23 Jan 90*

[From "Africa As We See It" program]

[Text] The Ethiopian foreign minister, Tesfaye Dinka, in a statement he gave during his meeting with foreign diplomats in Addis Ababa, has confirmed that his government will cooperate with all those who wish to deliver food aid in all drought-hit areas, including where the opposition groups operate.

However, the attempts being made by secessionists to close Mitsiwa and Aseb Ports have become alarming. Foreign food aid reaches Ethiopia through Mitsiwa and Aseb Ports. (Eduard Babazade), commentator of the Soviet news agency APN, has the following commentary:

When heavy rains fell on the drought-hit Ethiopian lands a year ago, there was great hope that the country would be relieved from famine. However, after some time, drought recurred and the crops planted have been destroyed. The most affected parts have been Eritrea and Tigray regions. All crops planted there have been completely destroyed. The only hope of the inhabitants there is receiving foreign aid.

The commentator goes on to say that the groups fighting the Ethiopian Government in Eritrea and Tigray regions view the dangers of drought from different perspectives. In his opinion, the secessionist groups are creating hindrances to prevent the aid from being delivered to the people affected by famine.

The evidence he gives to justify this is the attacks carried out on Polish and Yugoslav shipping recently on the Ethiopian border of the Red Sea. There were 3,000 tonnes of flour loaded on the Yugoslav ship which was being sent to Ethiopians affected by famine. It is possible to estimate how many people starved due to the evil deeds of the secessionists.

However, said (Eduard Babazade), the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, without regretting the acts, has declared that it will in future attack all ships which carry goods for the Ethiopian Government.

The opposition groups, using the problems of their citizens, are trying to put political pressure on the government. (Eduard Babazade) estimates that if the secessionist groups control the outlet to the sea, the government and international organizations will face great difficulty in delivering humanitarian aid.

East Europe

SED-PDS Chairman Gysi Pays Working Visit

Comments on Party Ties

LD0202104390 Moscow TASS in English 1027 GMT
2 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 2 TASS—Gregor Gysi, political leader of the renewed Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism, today arrived in Moscow on a working visit. He was invited by the

Soviet Communist Party Central Committee. The schedule of the trip is very tight—he will spend only one day in this country.

Gysi is expected to meet Mikhail Gorbachev. Journalists will learn about the results of this meeting at a news conference in the evening. However, he already talked with the press at the airport.

"I hope this visit will start a new page in relations between the Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism and the Soviet Communist Party, lending them greater warmth," Gysi told journalists.

"The launching of perestroika in the Soviet Union in 1985 and the subsequent revolutionary processes also provided the GDR and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany an opportunity to effect changes. This chance was not used by the former leadership. It shunned the restructuring, thus plunging the country into a deep crisis. The party should work now to win back people's confidence," Gysi said.

Talks With Gorbachev

LD0202130590 East Berlin ADN International Service
in German 1239 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Moscow (ADN)—Talks began this afternoon in Moscow between Gregor Gysi, chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party for Democratic Socialism [SED-PDS], and Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. It is attended by Jochen Willerding member of the presidium of the SED-PDS executive, and Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the CPSU Politburo and Central Committee secretary, and Valentin Falin head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee and expert on Germany.

Gysi arrived in Moscow today at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

On his arrival, Gysi said that the beginning of perestroika in the USSR in 1985 and the subsequent revolutionary processes had also given the GDR and the SED the opportunity for change. That opportunity was not utilized by the former leadership. It rejected perestroika, thus leading the country into deep crisis. The party must now regain the trust of the people. [passage omitted]

PRAVDA Cites Gysi Remarks on Unification

PM0202135990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent S. Baygarov dispatch: "Stabilizing Factor"]

[Text] Berlin, 1 Feb—The newspaper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND has today published a speech made by G.

Gysi, chairman of the German Socialist Unity Party-Party of Democratic Socialism [SED-PDS] to representatives of bezirk and kreis party organizations. As regards relations between the two German states, he said in particular:

"We are proceeding on the basis of the fact that World War II and the 'cold war' resulted in the emergence of two German states within one German nation and that the existence of two sovereign German states is now a stabilizing factor in Europe. We take into consideration the fact that these states have different systems and they belong to different alliances."

G. Gysi stressed that the creation of a confederative treaty-based community must be a bilateral process. The unification of the two states cannot be stopped. But there must be no question of one state swallowing the other or one state's values being imposed on the other state. This must be a bilateral process regulated by a treaty. Above all, an economic treaty, agreements on currency, a treaty on disarmament, and a number of other treaties must be concluded. We advocate the speediest conversion of the GDR mark into convertible currency and—as an interim measure—its partial convertibility.

We want a European Germany and not a German Europe. We are joining in this process, but we proceed from the premise that it cannot be concluded in a short time. Therefore, many people believe that we are enemies of unification, but this does not correspond with reality, G. Gysi stated.

Moscow Dailies Publish Gysi Interviews

IZVESTIYA 2 Feb

PM0102200790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 4

[Interview with Gregor Gysi, chairman of Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism, by IZVESTIYA special correspondents S. Guk and Ye. Korolev in Berlin, under heading "Gregor Gysi: We Want Democratic Socialism"; date not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] As is well known, the elections to the GDR People's Chamber have been brought forward from 6 May to 18 March. The country is in a hurry to have a stable rather than transitional government—a government elected in free, democratic elections. The parties' chances in the forthcoming elections are of interest to everyone, as is, in particular, the fate of the successor to the recently all-powerful Socialist Unity Party of Germany [SED]. This is the question with which we began our conversation with Gregor Gysi, chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism [SED-PDS].

[Correspondents] What kind of results are you counting on in the elections?

[Gysi] I cannot even hazard a guess, because we have not conducted any sociological surveys. Our potential voters are the overwhelming majority of the party's members—and there are still about a million of them—as well as like-minded people, friends, and relatives. It is possible that some voters will give us their vote not because of the socialist future we offer but because they dream of order and stability.

[Correspondents] The new leadership of the SED-PDS is now trying to regain its lost positions. Are you trying to make your party attractive again?

[Gysi] As far as we are concerned the question is not one of attraction: We have had to smash the old structures and create a new party of democratic socialism. We have adopted new statutes, we are ridding ourselves of Stalinist elements in the party (this process is still going on), and we have given a new substance to our activity. We do not yet have a party program or an election platform, but we are working on them. We have set up a commission to investigate breaches of the party statutes and have elected a new board. Virtually no one is left of the old Central Committee members. We are giving thought to a new quality of relations with other parties and movements and are playing an active role in the work of the "roundtable."

[Correspondents] Is the change of date for the elections to your benefit or not?

[Gysi] It is hardly likely to affect the results. But there is one advantage: The process of electing a new GDR People's Chamber and forming a government will be quicker.

[Correspondents] The SED-PDS just cannot get out of its prolonged crisis: People are leaving the party—even your closest associates, like vice chairman W. Berghofer, for example, are leaving. Essentially, you, as the new chairman, are having to pay for the sins of the old leadership. Do you not regret taking up this post at such a difficult time?

[Gysi] You are right that the party is still in a profound crisis. There are many reasons for this. In the opinion of some, the renewal process is not moving quickly enough; others feel themselves besmirched by the past; yet others are coming under such strong pressure at grassroots level—at enterprises and in establishments—that they have no choice other than to leave. And, finally, our party is being abandoned by those who, aware of the prospect of the party transferring to the opposition, are trying to create the impression that they are still perfectly good for a role in government, in running the country. In short, people have the most different reasons for leaving: some acceptable, some not. Of course, there have been moments when I have asked myself the question: Why did I have to take such a burden upon myself? But in the final analysis, it is a question of political responsibility: Either you agree or you do not. I agreed—with all the attendant consequences.

[Correspondents] How, nevertheless, do you explain the present situation, where the SED-PDS is having to beat off attacks from all sides? Where has all this mistrust and hostility come from with regard to an SED-PDS now undergoing renewal?

[Gysi] On the one hand, the past is to blame. Under the old order in the SED, people felt so disillusioned that even now they still regard us with mistrust. The second reason is that the revolutionary transformations in the GDR were not initiated by this party. We still do not have any clear ideas about the future, and we are still not regarded as one of the democratic factors in this country. We must make our stand clear: It is hard but not impossible.

[Correspondents] Let us suppose that the former leadership of the country had voluntarily undertaken even half of today's transformations a year ago. Would the country have been in the crisis situation it is in today?

[Gysi] I do not think so. Of course, a start should have been made more than a year ago. Our political crime is that we did not adopt a course of restructuring after 1985 but removed ourselves even further from the USSR and the CPSU. We were waging a war on two fronts: against the West and against the East. All this could not fail to lead to total isolation: hence today's conflicts. If the old leadership had not made the mistakes it did, the GDR would be in quite a different situation now.

[Correspondents] The opposition never tires of accusing the SED-PDS of still holding the key positions in all spheres of life—from the economy to the mass media—and claiming that the chances in the election struggle are therefore unequal.

[Gysi] I have not heard any more of this kind of criticism recently. It is all simply absurd. Let us start with the fact that power lies in the streets. The SED-PDS no longer plays the leading role. Its main role is at the "round-table," where we do not hold the commanding positions. With regard to myself and the party apparatus in general, we are not adopting any directives for party members that are binding upon them. They operate not on the principle of party affiliation but on the basis of their own convictions.

The party has been abandoned by numerous representatives of the economic apparatus. So we do not command any high points. As far as the mass media are concerned, all daily newspapers, with the exception of NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, are now totally independent of the SED-PDS, while journalists who are past or present members of the party not only do not support us but are actually opposed to us and, moreover, still try to score points at our expense. It cannot be said with any seriousness that we have commanding positions in radio and television. Anyone who watches or listens to broadcasts from the GDR knows that this is not the case.

[Correspondents] Most of the current GDR political parties cannot even bring themselves to utter the word

"socialism" in public and acknowledge only a market economy. What is this—a reaction against the old administrative-edict system or hope of using the market to resolve all problems without fail?

[Gysi] First: We are living at a time when there is no shortage of demagoguery. Second: Many people consider themselves to be the sole repositories of universal solutions. Although you can in fact see for yourself that the processes are much more complex. Of course we need a market economy, but we also need a plan. I repeat, a plan, rather than an edict system; and that is the big difference. We advocate democratic socialism, and we are the only ones to clearly state this. So we are as it were drawing fire upon ourselves. We now have to live with these difficulties.

[Correspondents] Approximately 2,000 people are leaving the GDR every day; can you stop the republic losing its lifeblood?

[Gysi] This is a very complex question. I personally see three preconditions for this—namely, the creation of political stability, the well-defined and clearly-outlined development of relations with the FRG, and, last, a West German contribution to economic and social stability in the GDR. People must have visible prospects.

[Correspondents] The opposition and the Western press say that most of the GDR's population supports immediate unification with the FRG. Is that so?

[Gysi] I don't think so. Most of the demonstrators do, but I would venture to doubt that most of the population do. Moreover, I consider it politically irresponsible to pretend that this immediate unification is possible. It depends on a host of factors: property relations, differences in social system and social structures, membership of different military-political alliances, and so on. If our neighbors' interests are taken into consideration, we cannot bypass the question of the steps which must be taken to implement the unification process on a reasonable basis.

[Correspondents] Have you not thought of changing the name of your party?

[Gysi] Yes, we believe that when the renewal process has been carried out with sufficient thoroughness we will be fully entitled to do away with the name SED and take the name PDS.

[Correspondents] In the immediate future the SED-PDS has to be content with or resigned to the role of opposition party.

[Gysi] Yes, that is so.

[Correspondents] How will you feel in this new role?

[Gysi] It is hard to tell what this will mean for the entire party. It is an unusual phenomenon. Personally I won't

have any problems: While I was an attorney I was never on the winning side. Therefore I will have no difficulty in acclimatizing myself.

[Correspondents] Your name surfaced suddenly during November's events in the GDR. What was instrumental in your being nominated to the post of party leader?

[Gysi] During the SED Congress the question of who was to be the new chairman arose. I can say honestly that I did not have any particular desire to be chairman at that stage. Wolfgang Berghofer spent a long time persuading me to do this, but today, as you can see, he himself has left the party. That is sometimes how fate toys with a person. Someone from the FRG said that I still have to master one truism: There is no room for friendship in politics, there are only interests. I gave the following answer: I have no intention of mastering that.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 2 Feb

PM0202103190 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 2 Feb 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS correspondent M. Voronenkov report, especially for SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, on interview with Gregor Gysi, chairman of Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism, in Berlin: "Gregor Gysi: A Political Portrait. The Secret of Trust"—no date of interview given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Gregor Gysi's manner of speech is distinguished by clarity of thought, logical completeness of reasoning, and an ever-present light smile which makes the conversation calm and friendly. And even though this was an interview, there was also present an element of reciprocal interest in ordinary human contact... Speaking about the importance of the emergency congress for the party, G. Gysi noted that the congress was held at a time when the party and the state were going through a profound crisis. In addition to that, the Central Committee and Politburo had resigned. This is why the objective of the emergency congress was to elect a new leadership, to adopt a statute, and the need to justify to its members the reason why the party should struggle for the GDR's sovereignty. All three of these tasks were performed by the congress. But this does not mean that the crisis in the party and the country has been overcome. So far, only a beginning has been made in overcoming the crisis and stabilizing the situation in the sense that the party is once again entitled to shoulder political responsibility for the country's future.

It is very important, as G. Gysi emphasized, that the party prevented a split: This is not a question of just the party's name. All congress delegates are now fully justified in saying that they have taken on this political responsibility. The party succeeded—and this is also one of the most important results of the congress—in making a fundamental break with the Stalinist system. Party members courageously accepted this. They welcomed with hope the decision about the party's recovery and its

development into a party of democratic socialism. Careerists and others will, obviously, leave the party.

We pursue, the chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism [SED-PDS] said, the goal of the party's radical renewal, getting rid of stagnant forms and methods of work, a total break with Stalinism, and the condemnation of the abuse of power and corruption. At the same time, we accept responsibility for the past. This is why we have retained part of its old name. It is associated also with glorious traditions of Communists and social-democrats, and we have no intention of renouncing them. The most terrifying aspect of our party's history is that its old name is associated in the minds of some part of society with nothing but abuses and corruption. The renewed party's task is to change this image.

The revolutionary process of perestroika in the Soviet Union in 1985 and later also gave the GDR and the SED a chance to implement perestroika. This chance was not taken by the former party leadership, they rejected perestroika and thus brought the country to a state of profound crisis. But the thesis that the party must regain the people's trust, bearing in mind the elections due in May 1990, was described as highly problematic by G. Gysi. The party has radically renewed itself, it has firmly taken the democratic path of development while remaining a socialist party, with the ensuing social security and legality. And since the party is stabilizing itself, this means that its demands for stability from the government are also fair. This must be demonstrated at the forthcoming elections.

Asked about the country's future, Gregor Gysi said that he continues to envisage the GDR as a sovereign and autonomous state maintaining close fraternal relations with the Soviet Union and good relations with neighboring states, including the FRG. The GDR will strive to create with the FRG and West Berlin a treaty-based community [dogovornoye soobshchestvo] and will cooperate in spheres like politics, the economy, science, and culture without restricting the sovereignty of either German state in the process.

As regards cooperation between the CPSU and the SED-PDS, the party chairman is of the opinion that exchanges of experience must become more regular and deeper. Hitherto the situation was more difficult, seeing that the CPSU is in the process of implementing a revolutionary process of renewal while the old SED was trying to evade it. Of course, SED-PDS members are now studying the CPSU's experience but, Gysi emphasized, "we do not want to copy, we want to learn so as not to repeat well known mistakes in the perestroika process." Of course, the SED-PDS can offer its own experience in exchange. The chairman is also worried about economic relations.

We must develop and strengthen this cooperation, and restructure it flexibly so as to render it more efficient. Much more still must be done to develop direct relations

between enterprises in both countries which, of course, must be done on the basis of treaties between the two states. Of course, G. Gysi added at the end of the conversation, I want to meet M.S. Gorbachev, because he already has such major experience of perestroika which is of special interest to us today.

Gysi Rejects Disbandment of SED-PDS

*PM2901153190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
28 Jan 90 Second Edition p 1*

[Dispatch by own correspondent M. Podklyuchnikov: "Not Capitulation, But Renewal"]

[Text] Berlin, 27 Jan—No one has the right to disband a party that has approximately 1 million members. This was the main idea put forward by G. Gysi, chairman of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism [SED-PDS], at a conference with chairmen of kreis and representatives of bezirk party boards. It was not capitulation, but radical renewal that was on the agenda.

The policy of the former leadership, which caused the current political and economic crisis in the country, is being used as the main argument to discredit the SED-PDS. Emphasis is also placed on abuse of power and corruption on the part of a number of party functionaries. Opponents of the SED-PDS are deliberately turning a blind eye to the fact that the party strongly condemned at its extraordinary congress the distortions of socialism in the past.

Finding themselves in what was for them an unusual atmosphere of hostility and, at times, overt hatred, fueled by right-wing forces, many party members started to leave its ranks. Some of those who have remained loyal to socialist ideals have had the idea that the only way to shed the burden of the past is to disband the party. The liquidation of party organizations has actually started at local level.

At the conference the idea of disbanding the party was not supported by the majority of participants from kreise and bezirke. What was said was that the debate on this topic in the party must stop. It is time to switch to constructive political work, to tackling concrete issues. The participants stressed that the party's goal is democratic socialism.

In his speech G. Gysi pointed out that the SED-PDS has renounced its claim to the leading role in society and has joined the broad spectrum of parties. "We will accept any election result," the party chairman said, "and are realistically facing the possibility of switching to an opposition role."

GDR Party Seeks Confederative German Community

*PM0202122090 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Feb 90 First Edition p 4*

[Own correspondent M. Podklyuchnikov report: "Via Treaty-Based Community"]

[Text] Berlin, 1 Feb—At the center of political life in the GDR is the question of the country's future and the possibilities, means, and conditions for rapprochement between the two German states.

"The former leadership of the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] and the GDR put forward the thesis that the German question does not exist, that it was resolved by history," Hans-Joachim Willerding, member of the SED-PDS [Socialist Unity Party of Germany—Party of Democratic Socialism] Board Presidium and leader of the international policy commission, told us. "But life has shown that this thesis brought the party nothing but harm, and that it was far removed from reality."

The international policy commission has now drawn up a draft "SED-PDS European Concept." It was presented to journalists at a press conference at the party board.

The pivot of the SED-PDS concept is the idea that the problem of rapprochement between the two German states can only be resolved within an all-European framework. Therefore the question of overcoming the division of Europe is in the forefront in the document drafted by the commission.

The SED-PDS advocates a united Europe with confederative structures, in which democracy and human rights are asserted. It should be demilitarized. The PDS is in favor of all-European integration and social, national, and cultural diversity.

The commonality of the German nation and the two German states, which the SED-PDS comes out in favor of, should go hand in hand with the unification of Europe and should actively promote it. The party supports a broad, gradual process of rapprochement leading, via a treaty-based community, to a state union of the two German states and at the same time to the creation of a confederative Europe. Naturally, West Berlin will participate in this process. The SED-PDS believes that in the course of this development it is necessary to preserve the political, social, and cultural identity and autonomy of the GDR and its advantages as a democratic, socialist state.

The PDS resolutely opposes a German national and revanchist solution to the German question, such that the neighboring Eastern states would come up against a pan-German membership of NATO.

The PDS wants the GDR to join a confederative German treaty-based community as a magnetic, dynamic, socialist, democratic, legitimate, antifascist state.

The SED-PDS will advocate that rapprochement between the two German states proceed on a reciprocal basis and through changes on both sides, which would consist primarily in demilitarization, further democratization, and humanization of the two societies.

The draft "SED-PDS European Concept" shows that a major document reflecting a new approach to complex international problems is being submitted for discussion by party members and the GDR public. It takes into account the interests of both German states and the urgent needs of the creation of a common European home. "Peace," the document stresses, "should emanate from the German land!"

GDR's CDU Party Decides To Quit Government

PM2901152590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
27 Jan 90 First Edition p 4

[Own correspondent M. Podklyuchnikov dispatch: "Crisis Deepens"]

[Text] Berlin, 26 Jan—One of the parties in the GDR, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), has taken a step that will further deepen the political crisis in the country.

It has decided to withdraw its representatives from the coalition government. In other words, Lothar de Maiziere, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the CDU, and also the construction and communications ministers.

The step taken by the CDU came as no surprise: This party has recently come under strong pressure from the West German CDU.

Political pressure from the West is now being increasingly felt in the GDR. Many West German parties do not conceal the fact that they intend to do everything in their power to turn the political life of their German neighbor in the East in the direction they need. They have essentially become active, influential participants in the GDR election campaign and are counting on the political face of the country changing radically on 6 May, the day of the elections to the People's Chamber.

Opposition forces in the GDR see their main rival as being the Socialist Unity Party of Germany-Party of Democratic Socialism (SED-PDS). The main thrust of their attack is directed against it. The opposition is gradually edging the one-time ruling party into the defensive. With all the talk about how the opposition does not have equal opportunities in the mass media, a situation has been created whereby the SED-PDS has itself begun to lose its equal opportunities. Its representatives are now rarely heard in television discussions, for example. The new parties and social movements have begun to set up their own press organs, mainly using printing facilities voluntarily transferred by the SED-PDS to national or cooperative ownership.

Monitoring the varied political landscape in the GDR today (the country now has more than 20 parties and 150 social organizations and groups), West German politicians are singling out those which are closest to them in terms of ideology and on which they are prepared to gamble.

West Germany's Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) has had no problems in finding a "partner": The GDR now has its own Social Democratic Party, which has even taken the same name. The West German SPD has divided the GDR into zones, each of which is the responsibility of an experienced politician in the West German SPD for the duration of the election struggle.

The West German Christian Social Union (CSU) did not wait for a suitable "partner" to make itself known in the GDR. The CSU group in the Bundestag went to Leipzig itself and held its own session there. Representatives of 11 GDR groupings were invited. Once they had taken a closer look at them, the West German politicians gave their "seal of approval" and a new party was soon formed from these 11 groupings: the German Social Union. Its representatives have unequivocally stated the party's objective: To create the same kind of system that exists in the FRG and unite the two German states.

The West German CDU is finding its search for a "partner" more difficult. As far as it is concerned, the party of the same name in the GDR is compromised by its many years of cooperation with the SED. Attempts by the new leadership of the Eastern Christian Democrats to move its party's course as far to the right as possible were considered inadequate in the West. V. Ruehe, general secretary of the CDU (FRG), demanded that the "Christians" in the GDR terminate their support for the coalition government led by H. Modrow and withdraw from it. The Eastern "partners" wavered about this for a long time.

The present decision by the CDU (GDR) shows, however, that the pressure from Bonn has been successful. The leadership of the Christian Democrats has expressed the opinion that its example will be followed by other parties in the GDR coalition government.

The opposition has simultaneously begun to attack H. Modrow. Mindful of his personal popularity among the people and the fact that none of the opposition parties can offer a person of such standing for his post, the opposition is not running the risk of demanding his resignation. Instead of this, it is starting to advance the theory that he should leave the SED-PDS and become a nonparty premier.

Representatives of the CDU have said that they will honor their pledges in the government until 9 February. And what then? The answer to this question was well known even before the step had been taken by the Christian Democrats. H. Modrow has more than once suggested to representatives of the opposition taking part in the work of the "roundtable" that they join the government. At first, the idea was rejected. Recently, however, it has been discussed with increasing vigor at the "roundtable."

Aboimov Recounts First Visit of GDR's Fischer*WA3101203590 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA
in Russian 25 Jan 90 p 3*

[Interview with I. Aboimov, deputy USSR foreign minister, by unnamed correspondent; date, place not given: "Cooperation of Equals"]

[Text] [Correspondent] The first visit to Moscow of the foreign minister of the GDR coalition government has taken place. What were the specific features of this visit?

[Aboimov] Primarily the fact that this really was O. Fischer's first visit following the changes which have taken place in the leadership in Berlin and the creation of a coalition government there. There are things for the foreign ministers of the two allied countries to discuss even given a more tranquil development of events. Now, however, in a period of rapid change on the European continent, many questions had built up for USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze and O. Fischer requiring urgent discussion and coordination of positions.

I may say right away that as a result of the useful exchange of opinions we ascertained what was most important: There has now been an appreciable expansion for us of the possibilities of cooperation both in bilateral and in international affairs. What had earlier restricted interaction, on questions of the advancement of the all-European process, for example, has now been fully removed.

[Correspondent] What does this mean in practice for the development of bilateral relations?

[Aboimov] It has to be said primarily that in the long-term concept of the international activity of the new GDR Government relations with the USSR will continue to have pride of place. Even now all ministries and departments of the GDR are devising new directions for the development of relations with the Soviet Union. It is a question of the continued development of all-around cooperation and the even greater rapprochement of the USSR and the GDR. These issues will be discussed in greater detail during the visit to Moscow of H. Modrow, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, which will take place in the very near future.

Both parties attach great importance now to the establishment of interparliamentary ties. This is an exceptionally important sphere of activity, to which insufficient attention was paid earlier. We hope that the USSR people's deputies will know how to contribute to the establishment of direct relations with their colleagues in the People's Chamber.

Our discussions were candid, and we did not avoid questions giving rise to mutual concern. It was a question, specifically, of the disturbing demonstrations of right-wing extremism, neofascism, and anti-Sovietism in

the GDR. Here also both parties were united: It is essential to adopt effective measures against the spread of neo-Nazism.

We learned of our GDR friends' interest in the solution of questions concerning the satisfaction of the cultural and ethnic requirements of Soviet citizens of German nationality.

[Correspondent] The GDR is our biggest trading partner in East Europe. Can we expect a continuation and, preferably, an expansion of economic cooperation with this country?

[Aboimov] We discussed these matters in detail. Yes, the GDR is our most important partner. We receive from them one-fifth of all Soviet machinery and equipment imports and large quantities of consumer goods. There are over 200 intergovernmental and interdepartmental working agreements between the USSR and the GDR and direct relations between enterprises of the two countries in respect of 160 contracts.

On the other hand, the USSR is a key partner of the GDR, supplying it with the main quantity of vitally important types of raw material, energy, and mechanical engineering products. The GDR receives from us annually 17.1 million tons of oil, over 7 billion cubic meters of gas, 4.5 million tons of coal, and 3.7 million tons of rolled products. The relative significance of the USSR in the country's foreign trade amounts to 39 percent.

In short, diverse economic interaction developing for the good of the two states and directly reflected in an enhancement of the living standard of the two peoples is being implemented successfully between our countries. We are bound by thousands of threads, and any severance of these threads would have a negative effect and particularly serious consequences for the GDR. For this reason the governments of the two countries have no intention of permitting such disruptions.

[Correspondent] In which aspects of international cooperation do you consider an expansion of interaction with the GDR possible?

[Aboimov] This will be possible primarily in the main directions of the development of the all-European process, as also, incidentally, in all European affairs. Currently both parties are proceeding from the fact that the holding at the end of this year of a meeting of the leaders of the 35 participants in the CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] is perfectly feasible. In the opinion of both parties, this meeting could map out the reference points for the advancement of the all-European process for the foreseeable future and sign a treaty on a reduction in conventional arms and armed forces and also an agreement on confidence-building measures and security in Europe. We agree fully in respect of the need to build a common European home, given the continent's gradual release from the ballast of arms and the gradual formation of new security structures.

One further sphere of interaction is the Warsaw Pact. We advocated a strengthening of its political activity and an improvement in the mechanism of the allies' interaction at all levels.

[Correspondent] What place was occupied in your talks by discussion of the mutual relations between the two German states?

[Aboimov] Not the least, by any means. This was essentially the key topic of the meeting. The talks showed that our partners in the GDR display a realistic approach at the time of discussion even of such aspects of the European political scene which deal with subjects that are most sensitive for them. Essentially, both parties approach this matter in the same way as other participants in the Helsinki process. It is a question of how best to accommodate the gradual development of cooperation between the two German states in the general process of rapprochement of the European nations, preventing here any disruptions and destabilization of the situation.

The gradual development of cooperation between the GDR and the FRG already has a sound legal basis. The treaty on the principles of relations concluded between them back in 1972 provides for the gradual development of the two states' mutual relations, which should proceed gradually, step by step, in line of ascent. It was to specify these principles that H. Modrow, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, put forward his idea of a treaty community of the two German states, which was developed during his meeting in Dresden with FRG Chancellor H. Kohl on 19 December 1989 into the concept of a cooperation and good-neighbor treaty. H. Kohl approved this concept in Dresden at that time and consented to the signing of a cooperation and good-neighbor treaty between the GDR and the FRG in the spring of 1990.

Speaking in the French International Relations Institute on 17 January this year, H. Kohl himself acknowledged that he had "adopted" H. Modrow's idea of a treaty community. Nonetheless, he endeavored in this same speech, and in other speeches of recent weeks also, to avoid clearly expressed consent to the conclusion of a treaty this spring.

We believe that accords between statesmen in our troubled times should be observed particularly punctiliously. The more so if it is a question of such delicate matters as the mutual relationship of the two German states and issues which are not a matter of indifference to all 35 participants in the CSCE. Moscow sincerely hopes that H. Kohl will adhere to all the arrangements of the Dresden meeting. A return visit by H. Modrow to the FRG and agreement on the wording of the cooperation and good-neighbor treaty would be of particular significance.

[Correspondent] Our newspaper has written about interference in the internal affairs of the GDR. On what level

was this topic, which was reflected in the communique on the results of the visit, discussed?

[Aboimov] This topic was discussed in the context of our general approach which precludes any interference and recognizes freedom of choice. We are convinced that the people of the GDR have the right to decide their fate in a sovereign manner, without prompting and interference from outside. And they alone, and by no means the FRG, as certain Bonn politicians are saying, have the right to "ensure" that real equality of "opportunity" be guaranteed at the coming elections. Moscow believes that interference in the GDR's affairs at such an important stage of its development not only is not permissible but also is exceptionally dangerous.

In the negotiations with O. Fischer the Soviet side expressed support for the people and government of the GDR, which emphatically reject interference in their internal affairs and are conducting their own search for paths of social development and the strengthening of their sovereignty.

[Correspondent] What is your personal assessment of the results of the visit?

[Aboimov] It was a useful, businesslike visit. It showed that our countries value the high degree of understanding and cooperation and are prepared to do everything to preserve and build on what has been achieved. We determined our positions for the immediate future. The GDR will remain our strategic ally.

Modrow Cited on German Unification Plan

PM0202115590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "How Should Germany Be United?"]

[Text] Berlin, 1 Feb.—H. Modrow, chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, expounded the concept "For a United German Fatherland" here today. The time has come to close the chapter of World War II, to conclude a German peace treaty, and to settle all problems connected with the aggression of Hitler's Germany and the collapse of the "Third Reich," he said at a press conference. The German question may be finally resolved only in conditions of the free self-determination of Germans of both states, in cooperation with the four powers who were victorious in World War II, and with a consideration of all European people's interests. The rapprochement between the two German states and their subsequent unification should not be seen as a threat in any way.

The head of the GDR Government is proposing that responsible dialogue be held in this connection, whose aim should be to work out specific steps leading to a single Germany designed to become a new factor of stability, trust, and peace in Europe.

In particular, H. Modrow's concept envisages several phases for bringing the German states closer together. He

believes that concluding an agreement on cooperation and goodneighborliness, which would include important confederative elements such as a union in economy, currency, and transport, and rapprochement in legal sphere, is a vital precondition. A confederation of the GDR and the FRG should then be formed with common organs of government and institutions such as a parliamentary commission, a Land Chamber, and joint executive organs in certain spheres. After that it would be possible to hand over rights connected with the two states' sovereignty to the confederation's organs of power. The final phase would be forming a single German state in the form of a German federation or a German union by holding elections in both parts of the confederation and convening a single parliament which would adopt a common constitution and form a single government with its seat in Berlin.

H. Modrow appealed to all GDR and FRG citizens, all European peoples and states, and world public to support this concept.

Former GDR Leaders To Face Trial in March

LD2901214790 Moscow TASS in English 2138 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Berlin January 29 TASS—Addressing a session of the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic, under way in Berlin, Hans-Juergen Joseph, the republic's prosecutor-general, announced that Erich Honecker, Erich Mielke, Guenter Mittag and Joachim Herrmann will stand trial in March on charges of high treason. The prosecutor's office is now conducting an investigation.

Following the main trial, there will be a trial of Willi Stoph, Guenter Kleiber, Werner Krolikowski, Horst Sindermann, Hermann Axen, Heinz Kessler and Gerhard Schuerer.

Former chairman of the Christian Democratic Union Gerald Goetting will be brought before court later.

The prosecutor-general also said that also many as 23 trials on charges of abuse of confidence are now conducted in the GDR on a national level and there are as many as 212 trials on a district level.

At least 69 more such trials will take place in February, including the trial of former trade union leader Harry Tisch.

Charges against former first secretaries of district committees of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany are being drawn up in a number of districts.

GDR Correspondent Views Neofascist Resurgence

PM0102111390 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 31 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[Article by Iris Lush (name as transliterated), correspondent for PANORAMA GDR bulletin specially for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "There Must Be No Delay. Thoughts on Origins of Neofascism in GDR"]

[Text] Berlin—The GDR public receives the news of neofascist outbursts in the country with anger and indignation. GDR citizens are stunned and alarmed. But at the same time they are increasingly pondering: How could this have happened? What are the reasons for neofascist actions? There is no easy answer to these questions. But it is a necessary step in the struggle against neofascism in the GDR.

For a long time—too long—the problem of right-wing extremist and neofascist trends in our country was officially taboo. These phenomena were not perceived in the proper fashion, too often they were regarded merely as "secondary phenomena" or "hooliganism." There was no analysis of the reasons behind them. Instead of familiarizing the public with the real state of affairs, it was claimed that neofascism was only imported into the republic from the West and that there was allegedly no foundation for it in the GDR.

"Today we know," Kurt Goldstein, a member of the GDR Committee of Antifascist Resistance Fighters Central Board Presidium, said late last year during a conversation with an ADN correspondent, "that neofascist actions are becoming widespread in our country, where the economic roots of fascism have been removed. We refuse to close our eyes to the fact that they are not only directed to us from the FRG but are also the result of mistakes on our part."

In turn Manfred Berend from Berlin's Institute of International Politics and Economics said that after 1945 the economic roots of extreme right-wing policy were destroyed and every known Nazi criminal appeared before a judge in the GDR. At the same time, however, the Stalinist model of socialism, which had an extremely negative effect on all spheres of society, took hold.

People in the GDR are now coming up against the fact that young people above all—although in small numbers—are guided by fascist positions or positions close to them as an alternative to outmoded dogmas. The present increase in right-wing radical ideas must also be regarded as a reaction to recent political denunciations, a kind of response to corruption and mismanagement.

Defects in the sphere of education and instruction, above all in the representation of history, are making a particularly negative impact today. Young people have not accepted the picture of history and socialism which has been presented to them of late. Because the hushing up of

"awkward" pages of history, along with the heroic flamboyant depiction of other events, embellished the picture, rendering it unauthentic, and failed to provide a point of departure for a correct appraisal and actions in modern conditions.

The struggle waged by all democratic forces in the country against right-wing radical trends has become even more topical. After all now, in view of the open borders, neofascist groupings are trying to make the GDR the field of their activity. This applies above all to the FRG's right-wing extremist "Republican" party. Its chairman Schoenhuber, a former SS officer, held a meeting with "Republican" "delegates" from the GDR. He spoke of his party's intention to take part in the GDR election, announced that the "Republicans" are sending tons of propaganda material to the neighboring country, and said that "active" groups of their supporters are welcoming dozens of new members into their ranks.

The GDR's parties, public organizations, and movements are aware of the growing danger. This is illustrated by the numerous protest actions and decisions which have been adopted in their program documents. Participants in a 27 December 1989 "roundtable"—representatives of parties and organizations involved in government, plus new GDR movements and groupings—adopted a statement regarding neofascist trends in the country. It says, in part: "The 'roundtable' participants note with great concern that the number of demonstrations by antifascist forces is rising in the country and these forces are beginning to organize themselves... It is not too late to overcome them in the initial stages. But there must be no delay."

Maneuvers Scheduled for 5-11 Feb in GDR

LD0202130990 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT
2 Feb 90

[Text] Berlin February 2 TASS—Troop exercises of the Western Group of Soviet Troops will be held in the area of Haldensleben, Lindau, Dobritz, Brandenburg, Wessenberg, Sevekow and Jaevenitz from February 5 to 11.

The exercises will also involve units of the National People's Army of the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

The government of the GDR notified all participants in the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe about the exercises.

TASS Notes Bulgarian Government's Resignation

LD0102234690 Moscow TASS in English 2336 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Sofia February 2 TASS—The Bulgarian Government resigned on Thursday, the BTA news agency reports.

Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov sent in the government's resignation to Chairman of the Bulgarian National Assembly Stanko Todorov. The resignation was explained by the need to create a government on a broad national basis.

Until the resignation is accepted the Council of Ministers will continue to perform its duties.

14th Extraordinary BCP Congress Begins Work

Draft Rules, Manifesto Published

WA2901202290 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 20 Jan 90 p 3

[TASS report: "Documents for Bulgarian Communist Party Congress"]

[Text] Sofia, 19 January (TASS)—The commission for preparing the 14th Special Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Congress has distributed here drafts of the new BCP Rules and the "Manifesto of Democratic Socialism in Bulgaria"—the congress' political declaration. The commission has appealed to communists and nonparty persons for them to express their opinions and proposals in respect to these documents.

The draft rules emphasize that the BCP is a Marxist political organization which has set as its goal the creation of a democratic and humane socialist civil society. The party is inspired in its activity by all that is valuable that has been created by the socialist movement in the world: the ideas and deeds of K. Marx, F. Engels, V.I. Lenin, D. Blagoyev, and G. Dimitrov and the experience of the communist, socialist, social democratic, and other progressive parties and movements.

The BCP is built on the basis of scientific socialism and the general program goals and tasks determined as the result of wide-ranging and free party debate. Relations between the communists and the party authorities and organizations are based on the principles of democratic unity and humanism. This envisages, inter alia, the right to a reasoned rejection of decisions and actions emanating from the executive authorities. The collective discussion and solution of problems of party activity based on alternative projects and via referenda and freedom of initiative, ideological currents, platforms, and associations within the framework of the party program and rules, given preservation of its organizational unity, are allowed.

The primary party organizations are created on the basis of the principle of self-organization: The communists themselves determine which primary components to form and on what basis. Each communist has the right to decide the organization in which to be a member: place of work, residence, or study.

The highest authority of the BCP is the congress, which is convened biannually. During the periods between congresses the activity of the party is directed by the

Higher Party Council. It elects a party chairman, two deputy chairmen, and a secretary.

The time has come for serious changes in the ideas concerning socialism and the parties which are struggling for its realization in society, the draft political declaration of the congress says. Bulgaria's communists, it observes, are faced with the tasks of the creation of a modern Marxist party of a new type capable of being the ideological and political leader of the public forces and people's masses struggling for the building of a society of democratic and humane socialism. The congress, the draft emphasizes, is called upon to initiate the BCP's growth precisely into a party of such a type—a party of democratic socialism in Bulgaria.

The BCP rejects both the constitutional enshrinement of its leading role in society and a monopoly of power, the document points out. This is recognition of the supremacy of the will of the people on the issue of who will govern and how. The party supports the development of an economy with a market orientation. The BCP supports the development of political pluralism and a multiparty system.

The building of a democratic society, the draft notes, is inconceivable without Bulgaria's extensive opening to the world. Particular significance is attached to the task of occupying a fitting place in the new Europe and in the building of the common European home. But under the new conditions also the party will seek to strengthen relations with the USSR and the other socialist countries and will support Bulgaria's participation in the Warsaw Pact and develop a policy of good-neighborliness and cooperation in the Balkans.

Lukanov Comments on Congress

LD3001065890 Moscow TASS in English 0637 GMT
30 Jan 90

[Text] Sofia January 30 TASS—"The 14th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party opening in Sofia on Tuesday is the first extraordinary forum in the party's history," Andrei Lukanov said at a news conference on Monday.

The Politburo member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee said that the congress was convened due to exceptional circumstances which are expressed in the country's transition to deep revolutionary transformations in its socio-political development. He attributed exceptional circumstances also to the political, economic and moral crisis plaguing the republic.

"Its roots should be sought in the command and administrative model of socialism, in the activity of the former party chief and his clan, in the inability of the Bulgarian economy to adapt to the demands of the world market," Lukanov said.

"This crisis cannot fail to affect the party itself as part of society. This is the reason why the Bulgarian Communist

Party is conducting the search for a new image, its policy that would enable it to continue to play a leading role in political life in Bulgaria."

"Everyone in Bulgaria sees today that a genuine reshaping of society is impossible without restructuring the Bulgarian Communist Party. Herein without restructuring the Bulgarian Communist Party. Herein lies the party's great responsibility to the country," Lukanov said.

"The debate launched in the party in the run-up to the forum has demonstrated that the drafts of the party's new rules and a political declaration, submitting to the congress, received wide support. In its majority the party favours profound and drastic, rather than cosmetic, changes and the renewal of the party, the changes that would transform it into a party of a new type, which conforms to the present conditions and prospects of social development and is able not only to exist but win positions in conditions of multi-party parliamentary democracy," Lukanov said.

Answering a question on possible changes in the top party leadership at the congress, Lukanov said: "Considering the authority of our general secretary in the party and the country, I personally do not expect surprises. But the election procedure is so democratic that no one can give an absolute guarantee before the elections begin."

Mladenov Delivers Address

PM0102104390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
31 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5

[L. Zhmyrev and A. Krushinskiy dispatch: "Serving Working Man. 14th Extraordinary Congress of Bulgarian Communist Party has started its work in Sofia"]

[Text] Sofia, 30 Jan—Early this morning 2,752 delegates representing 984,000 members of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and its 31,150 party organizations took their seats in the spacious hall of the People's Palace of Culture.

After the procedural questions were discussed, Petur Mladenov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee, took the floor and made an address.

The Communist Party is now in a difficult position, the speaker noted. The only way to maintain and increase its strength and role is by restructuring and renewal. The first thing that the Congress must do is condemn the serious mistakes and errors committed by T. Zhivkov and his regime of personal power and renounce them as incompatible with the ideals and principles of the party and socialism.

T. Zhivkov's authoritarian regime is a classic product of authoritarian socialism. In particular, in the last few years a small group formed on a nepotistic and careerist basis, composed of power-hungry and corrupt people who in effect usurped power in the party and the country. In this way, a clan was formed in the leadership

which made decisions beforehand on basic questions of developing the party and the country, and they dealt with those who dared to criticize the regime or presented a threat to it with the help of denunciations, slander, insinuations, and fabricated accusations, endless reorganizations, and lawsuits.

The removal of this regime represents not simply a change in the leadership, but the beginning of profound changes in the party. The cardinal task that we are now faced with must be stressed—that is, restructuring the BCP into a modern Marxist party capable of leading the people's struggle in restructuring socialist society in our country. The speaker outlined in detail the report and election campaign which took place before the congress. Almost half of the primary party organization secretaries elected were new. Among the members of the newly elected municipal party committees, 62.3 percent were new. The most marked renewal involved the congress delegates: 86 percent of them are participating in such a high-level forum for the first time. It is significant that 43.7 percent are people directly involved in material production.

Expounding the basic principles of party restructuring, P. Mladenov stressed that the BCP must become a Marxist party which draws its inspiration from all that is lasting and valuable that the socialist and communist movements in the world have created, from the ideas and activity of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Blagoev, and Dimitrov, and from the rich experience of communist, socialist, social democratic, and other progressive parties and movements.

Our party already has a historically proven alliance with the CPSU. It gives us confidence and strength that we have comrades-in-arms with 72 years' experience in the struggle for socialism, the speaker said. The most progressive phenomenon in Marxist practice today—perestroika—arose in the depths of Soviet scientific thought. It has caused the renewal of socialism throughout the world. In this respect we are using Soviet experience, acquired over many years, linking it with the specific nature of our conditions. I would like to stress once again that we wholeheartedly wish our Soviet friends success in these difficult and decisive days of perestroika. One of the aims of restructuring the party is the dismantling of its current hierarchical-command organizational structure. Decentralization and the concentration of a significant part of party work in primary and grassroots components are vital if this is to be achieved.

We affirm, the speaker stated, that we reject nomenklatura as a system of work with cadres and its negative features, such as monopolism, secrecy, a corporate mentality, parochialism, and apparatus ambitions. Our aim is to make the cadre process public, competitive, and monitorable.

Dwelling on questions regarding the BCP's place in society, the speaker advocated a pluralist multi-party

system that really works. We accept the interpretation of pluralism as the recognition of a political opposition. It is necessary to transfer to real parliamentary democracy. We must decisively overcome the merging of the party with the state. We consider that the very existence of alternative political forces in society is a positive thing.

At the same time, P. Mladenov said, we stress that we disagree with unfounded and sometimes even illusory opinions on the reasons for the current political, economic, and spiritual crisis and ways of overcoming it. "Formulas" that have been mechanically transferred from old programs are often proposed. Ideas of a rapid elimination of state ownership, the complete rejection of planning in the economy, and centralism in state government, and so on are being put forward. Many of these ideas do not take account of the deep structural socioeconomic changes that have taken place in the country in the past 4-5 decades.

Touching on one of the most acute problems in Bulgaria today—policy on the nationality question—the speaker recalled that on 29 December of last year the BCP Central Committee condemned the gross mistakes and distortions committed by T. Zhivkov's regime in connection with the Bulgarian Turkish-speaking and Muslim population. The plenum's decision was a bold step on the path to the democratization of society. We believe that after the elections it will be advisable to form a government of national accord capable of implementing effective economic and social measures.

A great deal of attention was paid in the speech to economic problems. The BCP Central Committee December (1989) plenum assessed the state of the economy as critical. The basic reason for the development of the crisis lies in the administrative edict system of managing the national economy. There is a tendency toward a slowing of real economic growth and a partial decline in efficiency and quality.

In the deepening general imbalance in economic growth, the inequality between supply and demand for goods, services, and housing is exceeding reasonable tolerable limits. The general financial state of the country has worsened significantly. Given the current state of the economy and export potential the foreign debt in convertible currency is placing the country on the edge of a "debt crisis."

The stabilization program must be implemented at the same time as the realization of integral economic reform and a phased transition to market structures.

The speaker made a detailed analysis of current ideological problems in Bulgarian society. Our ideological and political opponents are exploiting the difficulties today and are loudly prophesying the collapse of communism. These are cheap devices, he said. These people forget that Marxism and communism were born to be, and became, the expression of the hopes of millions of people suffering under the yoke of capitalism.

The general question of our ideological work today is to draw all the necessary conclusions and take practical steps guided by the fundamental tenet that panhuman values have priority in the modern world. It is extremely necessary to arouse a new social interest in the theory of Marxism and attract a large part of the younger generation to it. Today a return to Marxism requires merciless criticism of dogmatism.

Great significance was given in the speech to problems in foreign policy. Cooperation with the USSR and other allied countries is still a top priority in foreign policy. The Bulgarian-Soviet summit talks in Moscow in December last year showed the Soviet leadership's full support for the policy of democratic renewal in Bulgaria.

There is no doubt that today our national security still cannot be guaranteed without participating in the Warsaw Pact Organization and without preserving bilateral agreements on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance with the USSR and other allied states. Together we support a stable, democratic, and voluntary alliance which is in a position to respect and guarantee the interests of each of its participants, including, naturally, Bulgaria's interests. Our participation in a radically renewed, efficient, and dynamic CEMA retains its significance in the present realities.

The new political philosophy for international communication has become a natural echo and a political reflection of current world realities. This philosophy is a most modern dialectical-materialist view of the modern world and a methodology for following future changes in it.

Bulgarian foreign policy is entirely constructed on the basis of the new political philosophy of international relations which correspond to the Bulgarian people's interests.

The balance of interests, a right to sociopolitical choice for all peoples, equal security for all, the impossibility of nuclear war being an effective political method, and the integration of responsibility into international politics—all of these are new elements in the party's modern approach to the world and Bulgaria's role in it.

An indispensable condition for carrying out a realistic foreign policy is an objective stance both toward allies on the one hand, and partners and rivals on the other.

The thorough restructuring of Bulgarian society will determine increasingly categorically the substance and style of our country's Balkan policy. Only a policy free from opportunism, voluntarism, and improvisation will be able to absorb the realities of our region in all their complexity and contradictions.

After the speech a debate started.

'Sharpness' of Debates Noted

PM0102091590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
1 Feb 90 Second Edition p 5

[Special correspondents L. Zhmyrev and A. Krushinskiy report: "Reassessment of Values. PRAVDA's Special Correspondents Report From Extraordinary 14th BCP Congress"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] General attention focused on the question of the party's name. Judging by [precongress] statements, most party organizations and conference participants are in favor of retaining the name of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party]. An identical view was also expressed by a number of debate speakers at the congress. But there are also proposals to change the name. The reason is that the old name is compromised and does not reflect the current tasks and the tasks of the immediate historical future. The majority agrees that the question of the name should be decided by a partywide referendum.

Much attention is also paid to questions concerning the nature, functions, and tasks of the party. For example, should the commitment to the principles of democratic centralism be retained? Should party organizations created at production units be retained? The following reasons are given: In the conditions of a political situation whereby Bulgaria has arrived at a multiparty system, it is assumed that other political forces would also wish to create their party organizations at production units. This would hinder production. As for territorial organizations, the majority of participants in the debate agreed that they are necessary because their activity will be associated with the struggle for victory at the forthcoming elections.

Many are worried about the following problem: Will it be possible to enshrine in the party statutes real guarantees to prevent the revival of the personality cult and the administrative edict system ever again? In this context the majority of Communists insists that senior positions be held for no more than one or two elected terms.

The task of sharply reducing the party apparatus is being raised everywhere: a 70-80 percent reduction. This would mean, for example, that the Central Committee would be left with only 150-180 staffers instead of its present 970.

Finally, the congress is devoting enhanced attention (as actually happened during the party conferences) to questions of the party's ideological and theoretical foundations. It is noteworthy that the pre-congress documents no longer speak of a "Marxist-Leninist" but of a "Marxist" party. Communists have different perceptions of this. Some claim, for example, that bolshevization has damaged the BCP. This idea was suggested in particular by representatives of the Alternative Socialist Association. Others disagree. Here is what one congress delegate told us yesterday: "I believe that we should not be

ashamed of Lenin's teaching. Is Lenin to blame if his teaching was distorted and to this day has not been properly applied?"

Yes, this is a unique congress in the BCP's 100-year history. Its originality is displayed not only in the sharpness of the debate but even in the actual atmosphere prevailing in the hall. People no longer accept speeches written in the traditional style.

...One delegate, secretary of a city party committee, started speaking the language of truisms—the hall immediately "put him in his place." Another typical sign: Every speech, according to the procedural rules adopted here, is followed by a question-and-answer session, which at times can be really sharp indeed. For example, delegates repeatedly said from the floor that this is a party congress and not the congress of a cooperative movement or an industrial union, everything touching on strictly specialized issues should be excluded from speeches. According to our estimates, every speech is thus followed by 5-6 opponents on average.

"Several city conferences expressed the wish that the delegates' time while the congress is at work be charged to their paid annual leave," the sitting's chairman announced. "I would think that this would be welcomed with approval by the Bulgarian public." The proposal was adopted. But judging by the delegates' activeness, the congress is hardly likely to complete its work within the 2-3 days scheduled for it according to the organizers' preliminary plans.

A greetings message to the BCP Congress from the CPSU Central Committee was read out at the evening sitting on 30 January, and it was warmly welcomed by the party forum delegates.

The Extraordinary 14th BCP Congress continues its work.

CPSU Greetings Published

PM3101151390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
31 Jan 90 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee greetings to 14th (Extraordinary) BCP Congress]

[Text] To the 14th (Extraordinary) Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Congress

Dear comrades!

On behalf of the CPSU we ardently greet the delegates to the 14th BCP Congress.

Soviet Communists express solidarity with your party's efforts aimed at building democratic socialism and a society based on social justice, where everything serves the working man, his prosperity, and spiritual development.

We proceed on the premise that, as social transformations deepen in the USSR and Bulgaria, increasingly

favorable preconditions will emerge in the USSR and Bulgaria for the development of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two fraternal peoples.

The CPSU values its close and sincere cooperation with the BCP and is prepared to further enrich it across the whole spectrum of problems of socialist renewal.

We wish the delegates to the 14th BCP Congress successful work.

The CPSU Central Committee.

Bulgarian Prosecutor Reports on Demonstrations

PM3001160990 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 27 Jan 90 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Bulgaria: Prosecutor's Office Report"]

[Text] Sofia, 26 Jan—A Bulgarian Chief Prosecutor's Office report has been disseminated here on recent gross violations of order and legality which create obstacles to the normal functioning of state and public organizations and disrupt the tranquillity of citizens.

The processes of democratization in Bulgarian society since 10 November 1989, the report states, have increased the population's social and political activeness. On the basis of the Constitution and the existing laws citizens are making extensive use of the right to hold rallies and demonstrations. At the same time such mass events are not always held in strict accordance with existing legislation.

Thus, on the evening of 24 January approximately 100 people, some of them in a state of alcoholic intoxication, gathered in front of the building of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] committee of the capital's Serdika commune. They were carrying posters of an anticommunist nature and chanting slogans calling for physical violence against Communists. An attempt was made to penetrate the BCP commune committee building—which required intervention by the law-enforcement organs. A section of the crowd headed for the nearby people's militia board, yelling abusive slogans.

Similar actions also occurred in front of the Sofia BCP City Committee building and outside the buildings of the party's okrug and commune committees in Plovdiv, Varna, and other cities.

The Bulgarian Chief Prosecutor's Office, the report points out, deems it necessary to draw attention to the fact that some of these actions should be described as crimes.

Former Bulgarian Party Chief Under Arrest*LD2901224390 Moscow TASS in English 2228 GMT
29 Jan 90*

[Text] Sofia January 29 TASS—Todor Zhivkov, former general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, former president of the Bulgarian State Council, is under arrest in the Chief Investigation Agency, says a report of Bulgaria's Main Public Prosecutor's Office. The statement is circulated in connection with questions from Bulgarian citizens and news organisations.

An investigation is being conducted. Todor Zhivkov and members of his family are questioned. Searches are made, the report says. An expertise will assess the value of movable and real estate belonging to the family of the former Bulgarian leader, as well as their incomes.

With taking into consideration Zhivkov's age and state of health, the necessary medical examination was conducted.

A large number of fire arms, possessed without permission, was discovered during a search in the house of Ivan Slavkov, the son-in-law of the former Bulgarian leader.

In this connection, and also to establish the legality of his having received large sums of money, and other cases of abuse of position, the Main Public Prosecutor's Office started a preliminary investigation which will be conducted by the Chief Investigation Agency.

The Main Public Prosecutor's Office is also conducting a preliminary investigation into abuses of position and embezzlement of public property by Milko Balev, former member of the Politburo and former secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

The Main Public Prosecutor's Office requests all citizens, as well as public and state organisations having information on these cases to refer them to the Main Public Prosecutor's Office.

BCP's Lilov Thanks Soviet Union for Perestroika*PM0102143190 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
29 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5*

[Report on interview with Aleksandur Lilov, member of Politburo and secretary of Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, by PRAVDA correspondent L. Zhmyrev: "Talking to Aleksandur Lilov: Rejecting Dogmas"—place, date not specified]

[Excerpts] Aleksandur Lilov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee, received PRAVDA correspondent L. Zhmyrev. The topic of their conversation was the main specific features of the forthcoming 14th Extraordinary BCP Congress. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, A. Lilov dwelt on the prospects of Bulgarian-Soviet relations. While restructuring the BCP into a

party of democratic socialism, the interlocutor said, we in Bulgaria are thoroughly examining the Soviet Union's experience, drawing from it everything that is valuable and nurtures the positive development of this process. We also strive to take into account the difficulties which Soviet perestroika is encountering.

Fears are being expressed: Could de-Stalinization in the BCP and in Bulgarian society lead to anti-Sovietism? We perceive de-Stalinization as the restoration of Leninist and Marxist principles for the building and the leading activity of the BCP. We perceive de-Stalinization as the beginning of the creation of a new-type party, a modern Marxist party capable of meeting contemporary demands and heading the process of the restructuring of socialism. De-Stalinization means strengthening the foundations of ties between Bulgaria and the USSR. There is no other way, no other way would be possible for Bulgaria, it would not be accepted either by the party or by the people.

It would, of course, be naive to close our eyes to the negative reaction in the party and society associated with the pernicious influence exerted on Bulgaria by the Stalin-Brezhnev era and the Zhivkovism which it spawned. This confuses some Communists' minds and produces a critical attitude toward the USSR. How is this to be countered? How are we to preserve relations between our parties and our peoples?

First of all, it is necessary to demonstrate everything valuable that is now being accomplished in the process of perestroika in the Soviet Union. Fortunately, it was the USSR that displayed political and intellectual courage in launching the restructuring of socialism. In my view, this is one of the most remarkable phenomena of our time. If we manage to reveal at ever greater depth that which is now happening in the Soviet Union, we will be able to strengthen further still the fraternal feelings between our peoples.

We must more actively inform one another of what is happening in our countries and must learn from each other's experience. As a matter of fact, the ideas of perestroika arrived in Bulgaria largely via the Soviet mass media. Taking advantage of this occasion, I would like to thank PRAVDA, your country's other newspapers, and Soviet television for this, for having become a bridge carrying perestroika's ideas and the experience of perestroika between the USSR and Bulgaria.

Reports Noted From East European Capitals*LD0102195390 Moscow TASS in English 1925 GMT
1 Feb 90*

[“News from East-European Countries—TASS headline”]

[Text] [Dateline as received] Sofia. The political declaration of the 14th Extraordinary Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party, “The Manifesto of Democratic Socialism in Bulgaria” was adopted by the forum today.

The Congress stated that the Bulgarian Communist Party has begun its transition into a party of democratic socialism.

The party supports the development of political pluralism and a multi-party system.

The declaration says that under new conditions the party will strive to consolidate relations with the Soviet Union and with other socialist countries and will favour Bulgaria's participation in the Warsaw Treaty Organisation and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

Belgrade. Despite efforts taken, the situation in Kosovo is deteriorating and threatening to degenerate into a bloody, inter-ethnic conflict, says a report circulated here in connection with Wednesday's meeting of the collective presidency of Yugoslavia held here.

The meeting discussed the political situation in the Kosovo autonomous territory.

Yugoslav citizens must remain confident that at this dramatic moment the state can still exercise its powers and check any terroristic actions, it was stated at the meeting.

Prague. "Through the fault of former leaders, our party has been unable to lead the necessary, progressive process for revival and restructuring of socialist society," said Ladislav Adamec, chairman of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

"Therefore the party lost control of events, and its influence and prestige suffered," he said. He commented on the fact that the Communist Party lost the majority in the national parliament during mid-term elections to both chambers of the Federal Assembly.

Berlin. Citizens of the German Democratic Republic, West Germany and West Berlin exchanged over 18 million trips in January. This figure was given today in the central press of the GDR by the Main Directorate of Passports and Visas of the GDR Ministry of the Interior. Some ten million citizens of the German Democratic Republic traveled to West Germany and West Berlin in January, the report says.

Warsaw. On the night between January 28 and January 29, the eve of the anniversary of the liberation of Krakow by Soviet troops in 1945, unidentified persons desecrated the monument to the Soviet Army in Krakow. GAZETA KRAKOWSKA writes that the monument was smeared with paint, making no further comments.

West Europe

'Gorbachev Adviser' Interviewed by Hamburg Paper
AU2501134290 Hamburg BILD in German
24 Jan 90 p 4

[Interview with Nikolay Portugalov, Gorbachev adviser on Germany policy and secretary of CPSU Central

Committee, by Eberhard Laib: "If People Want Unity, It Will Come About"; date and place not given]

[Text] BILD: Mr Portugalov, this is the first time you are paying a visit to Berlin after the opening of the Wall. How do you feel?

Portugalov: All this is very refreshing. This is due to the air and the border that has been removed.

BILD: When will reunification take place?

Portugalov: If the people in the GDR want reunification, it will come about. In no case will we object to such a decision; we will not interfere. However, reunification that would lead to chaos would not serve anybody.

BILD: What danger do you see that might trigger chaos?

Portugalov: Snide remarks and whipped up emotions among certain forces in the FRG are out of place. We must be careful that the state order does not collapse. The reality that has grown and stability in Europe must not be completely ignored.

BILD: What path toward reunification do you recommend?

Portugalov: We believe that the two states of the German nation should grow together gradually within the European framework and in parallel with the all-European process. Why should this process be artificially accelerated? Sometimes you remind me of lotto players who have got six numbers right and have nothing better to do than to lose their prize in Baden-Baden or Monte Carlo.

BILD: What chances may open up for the Soviet Union from economic cooperation between the GDR and the FRG?

Portugalov: We will profit enormously from such cooperation if everything works out fine. What we are trying to do is to make our economy compatible with the market economy of the West.

BILD: Egon Krenz was expelled from the party, and Erich Honecker would have been arrested if he were fit to undergo detention. Do you feel sorry for them?

Portugalov: If you ask me personally, I do not like that. There are a lot of things that one can accuse Honecker of. We ourselves suffered under his leadership. However, it was not possible for us to leave our main ally in the lurch. We told him a hundred times in peace and friendship: "Do something, for God's sake, otherwise everything will end in a catastrophe." Still, I do not see any reason to accuse him of high treason. For God's sake, leave the old man alone!

Plan To Elect W. Berlin Deputies 'Dangerous'*PM0102151990 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
1 Feb 90 Second Edition p 6*

[Own correspondent S. Zyubanov dispatch: "Where's Train Going?"]

[Text] West Berlin, 31 Jan—Of late West Berlin's Senate has mounted an urgent campaign to directly elect 22 city deputies to the FRG Bundestag. As is well known, West Berlin's special status only permits city representatives to be appointed to the West German parliament, where, incidentally, they have no right to vote.

Despite this, Senate representatives are stubbornly spreading rumors that the FRG Government is allegedly preparing the relevant change in the federal electoral law. Of late the local press has even begun to carry reports that Bonn has enlisted support from the three Western powers for its intention to change the existing procedure for sending West Berlin's delegates to the Bundestag. What is more, someone among the powers that be recently deliberately started a "rumor" that the Soviet side approves this extremely dangerous Senate venture.

Why dangerous? Because it is a question of undermining the very foundations of the city's special status. Direct election of West Berlin deputies would put the city on an equal footing with FRG lands and would violate three points at once of the 1971 four-power agreement. First, it would breach the key clause which stipulates that West Berlin does not belong to and is not subordinate to the FRG; second, it flagrantly disregards the pledge made by all parties to the agreement to renounce unilateral changes to the status quo; third, it would strike out the clause on immediately suspending all actions incompatible with the city's special status in Berlin's western sectors.

Taking advantage of the turbulent renewal process in the GDR, today some people in West Berlin and Bonn are trying to speculate on the fact that elections to the GDR Volkskammer, in which [East] Berliners will take a direct part, will be held 18 March this year. It is said that West Berliners could also, by analogy, directly elect their deputies to the West German parliament.

But this argument does not stand up because Berlin's western sectors were detached from the Soviet zone of occupation and never included in the FRG, which emerged later.

It would also be appropriate to recall that the question of direct elections of 22 West Berlin deputies to the Bundestag does not only undermine the city's special status, which has ensured its peaceful development for several decades and at the same time consolidated stability in central Europe.

Obviously, E. Diepgen, head of West Berlin's Christian Democratic Union, was right in some respects when, speaking recently at the annual press conference, he

insistently advised the Senate "not to take a train without knowing where it's going."

Thatcher, President Bush Support for Gorbachev*LD3101222390 Moscow in English to Great Britain
and Ireland 2000 GMT 31 Jan 90*

[Text] When a few days ago Mrs Thatcher spoke in parliament about problems facing the Soviet Union she expressed confidence that Westerners wholeheartedly sympathized with Mikhail Gorbachev who was compelled to deal with all those problems. Yevgeniy Ivanov of our staff recalls:

President Bush too has made a few statements lately showing that he shares Mrs Thatcher's attitude to the Soviet leader. Dwelling at a White House news conference on the Transcaucasian developments, he said in part: I can't make predictions but I hope that Gorbachev not only survives but stays strong. Well, the old saying goes "a friend in need is a friend indeed"; its Russian equivalent means virtually the same. Regrettably, friendship is yet to become a word reflecting the essence of East-West relations. As he addressed a group of newspaper editors, President Bush observed that his administration would like the peaceful reforms in the Soviet Union to go on. One may interpret this as a desire to promote American-Soviet contacts and East-West relations in general. (?Logic prompts) that the process of perestroika in the Soviet Union and in the international arena is just what is needed for the work for peace to continue on a still larger scale.

One can feel the whole world is concerned with the future of perestroika, although the international situation has already become notably healthier. No more than 17 percent of Britons expect the East-West conflict to pose the gravest threat to the world in the 1990's. Even the Shadow Defense Secretary, O'Neill, does not rule out that major cuts may be made in Britain's armed forces in continental Europe within the next 10 years. At the same time Defense Secretary Tom King has refuted the possibility of reductions in the British military outlay in the near future.

Meanwhile, Soviet and American experts are ready to resume talks on nuclear weapons cuts ahead of schedule with a view to removing all obstacles in the way of signing an appropriate treaty during next June's Soviet-American summit. The Pentagon, aware of the changing situation, has pledged to cut back its budget. It looks like both East and West are increasingly favouring the idea of turning NATO and the Warsaw Treaty into instruments of political cooperation expected to ensure a more lasting and reliable peace.

An article in one of the latest issues of THE ECONOMIST says the Soviet Union is at a turning point; whichever way it lurches, years of pain and instability lie ahead. Apocalyptic predictions of this kind are fairly widespread in the West today. Significantly, Western leaders have been coming up with calmer and more

balanced assessments of the Soviet Union's future. Obviously this country is in for lots of difficulties, but its future is by far less gloomy than the author from THE ECONOMIST has tried to present it to his readers. One thing is clear, namely that the positive change which, in spite of certain resistance, has been winning increasingly many supporters in both East and West can and must be promoted.

UK Foreign Secretary's Berlin Visit Assessed

PM3001165390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
28 Jan 90 First Edition p 4

[Commentary by correspondent Tomas Kolesnichenko: "Visit With a Motive"]

[Text] London, 27 Jan—Visits by West European politicians to the Brandenburg Gate have become a kind of pilgrimage of late. But British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's 3-day visit to the GDR did not only not go unnoticed, but aroused keen interest and caused much press comment. There appear to be several reasons for this.

I will mention two of them. Britain's position on the "German question" is notable at the moment for its positive, constructive content and is obviously at variance with the hasty efforts to raise the question of unification of the two German states immediately, in spite of the established stability in Europe. Many observers believe that the future solution of this problem largely depends on how conscientious Hurd was in expounding this position during his visit. Second, London is busy seeking a "place in the sun" in today's new Eastern Europe, intending not to lag behind the other Western countries and to play an active part in dynamizing the processes taking place on the continent.

During his visit Hurd reemphasized that the British position on the German question remained unchanged, stating that the problem of the unification of the two German states is "not a task for today, but a matter for the future." The press is emphasizing that the "GDR's path to democracy," London believes, "must avoid any cataclysms." Against the background of attempts by certain circles to establish "street diktat" in the GDR, London's appeal is very sobering. Perhaps it will pour cold water on certain hotheads.

The restrained, temperate nature of Hurd's talks in Berlin is also interesting. Perhaps, in this case THE TIMES is right when it explains this by saying that the political mosaic in the GDR nowadays is so varied that it is hard to identify the general pattern. And any of the coalition parties, Hurd admitted, could lose its present position after the May elections. Therefore, London does not want to "put all its eggs in one basket," so to speak.

But despite the uncertain prospects of the various parties, London is clearly seeking to establish more contacts

with the opposition, to be specific, with those movements in the GDR which have parallels among political structures in the West, above all in the FRG.

However, the British delegation had more London fog with it than clear and concrete proposals. For instance, Hurd was in no hurry to offer economic aid, confining Britain's "contribution" to giving GDR postgraduates the chance to study political science and market relations in the economy free at British universities. No doubt it is thought that an acquaintance with British experience will in itself pave the way to prosperity. One can approach this conclusion in various ways, regarding it, for instance, as an example of British humor.

But, by and large, Hurd's visit was an important British bid to activate links with the continent, above all with Eastern Europe, which is changing dramatically before our very eyes. What is very important is the fact that London wanted it to be known that it is not shirking the responsibility that it continues to bear, together with France, the United States, and the Soviet Union, for the development of events in Germany.

Masol, Ukrainian Delegation Arrive in Munich

LD3001194890 Kiev in English to Europe
1900 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] A delegation of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic Government has arrived in Munich for an official visit on the invitation of Bavarian government. The delegation is headed by Vitaliy Masol, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic prime minister. Among the delegation members are also minister of culture of the Ukraine, vice president of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic Academy of Sciences, and other officials. One of the purposes of this visit is to broaden multifaceted contacts between West Germany and the Ukraine.

Prospect of 3 U.S. Bases Closings in UK Noted

PM3101100390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
31 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 5

[A. Krivopalov dispatch: "Britain: 3 Out of 66 Military Installations To Close"]

[Text] London—The United States is apparently prepared to vacate three of the bases it leases on British territory. At any rate, this is what THE TIMES assumes in a lengthy commentary on the arrival of two members of the Thatcher cabinet—Foreign Office chief D. Hurd and Defense Secretary T. King—for talks in Washington.

This assumption or (time alone will tell) statement of fact is based on the fact that the draft U.S. state budget for the next fiscal year, which is about to be published, provides for certain cutbacks in appropriations for military needs. The Bush administration cannot disregard the sentiments in the U.S. Congress, where one can hear the increasingly loud voices of those who, in the light of the vast changes that have recently occurred in the

international arena, are calling for more decisive steps by the United States along the path of arms reductions. According to THE TIMES, the decision to close three bases in Britain, which was made quite recently, is actually a gesture by the President to mollify the legislators.

The three bases in question are, of course, only a tiny fraction of the 66 U.S. military installations on British soil. Nonetheless, their importance is quite substantial. Fairford and Wethersfield are strongholds of the U.S. strategic air force. The third and best known, Greenham Common, is a cruise missile base. By 1991 all these missiles ought to be withdrawn from there on the basis of the existing Soviet-U.S. treaty.

The forthcoming closure of three major installations has produced a mixed reaction in Britain. Mr M. Gibbons, Conservative member of Newbury District Council, with Greenham Common and some rather disturbing "resident" neighbors—cruise missiles—on its territory, makes no secret of his satisfaction. "Local residents will be very happy," he declared. "There is an opinion that our Air Force might have a surplus of bases. If this is the case, many would like to see the land now occupied by these military installations reverting to its common status."

But some people think otherwise. Over the years, the U.S. military presence in different parts of Britain has created an economic infrastructure, and the prospects of losing this source of profit make some people feel at least temporarily sorry.

Describing the Bush administration's plans, the London newspaper, quoting its own sources of information, claims that Washington is supposedly giving some serious thought to the future of other U.S. bases in Britain. The transatlantic plans for the deployment of MX and "Midgetman" nuclear missiles are still unclear.

Britain's official circles express neither joy nor enthusiasm about the possible reduction in the number of U.S. bases and the partial withdrawal of U.S. subunits from other NATO countries. Maybe even the contrary. For their part, calling for circumspection and caution, they warn: The United Kingdom foresees no "premature" arms reductions.

This will probably be the spirit in which the British ministers will converse with representatives of the Washington administration. It looks as if official London will also try to exert suitable influence on other North Atlantic partners.

Belgian Defense Minister Coeme Interviewed

PM3101101590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 27 Jan 90 First Edition p 5

[Interview with Guy Coeme, Belgian national defense minister, by TASS correspondent V. Shashkov under the

heading "Overcoming the Burden of the Past"—date and place unspecified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Guy Coeme, Belgian national defense minister, will be coming to the Soviet Union on an official visit in February. At the request of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, your TASS correspondent had a meeting with the Belgian minister and interviewed him.

[Shashkov] Mr. Minister, turbulent processes are taking place in Europe and, at the same time, tension between the two military blocs is being eased. How is the situation likely to develop, in your opinion?

[Coeme] I can only express satisfaction with the changed climate on the continent. Like all Europeans, I hope that the process of building trust between the two parts of Europe is irreversible. I also hope that the atmosphere of accord and mutual understanding which is only just beginning to be established will open the way to a future in which the very idea of confrontation will seem absurd.

Of course, hopes and their fulfillment are often an ocean apart and so, not being a prophet, I would not venture to predict what the future will be. However, there is no such thing as an abyss that cannot be crossed. We must all pull in the same direction in order to fulfill the hope that Europe will be liberated from the specter of confrontation.

I think that there is a close link between the perception of mutual threat and detente. So we must do everything possible to ease this sense of danger, to which Europe has been held hostage for decades.

A number of European countries have experienced or are currently experiencing an extremely complex and painful transitional period. An absence of international tension is a crucial condition of the transformations and reforms now begun being ultimately successful. I see this as the main task of all political and military leaders.

[Shashkov] With cuts in ground and air forces in Europe as a result of talks, there will be an increased role to play for naval forces, in which NATO has a considerable advantage. Naturally concerned by this, the Warsaw Pact member-states are proposing to begin talks on naval forces. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Coeme] The distinction should be made between strategic naval forces and the naval forces necessary for safeguarding the security of Western Europe. The former are the subject of bilateral talks between the Soviet Union and the United States. The latter are not restricted by any treaty and are not a subject of negotiation at present.

Unlike the Warsaw Pact, the Atlantic alliance is a coalition of maritime powers. As long as there is confrontation and an imbalance of forces on the European continent, the defense of Western Europe will be largely dependent on the redeployment of reinforcements from North America. The expected signing of the Vienna

treaty will result in a considerable proportion of the U.S. Armed Forces contingent being withdrawn from Europe. In the event of a crisis, bringing reinforcements to Europe across the Atlantic by sea will be essential as never before. The defense of these convoys travelling long distances along sea lanes justifies the existence of powerful naval forces. Moreover, as the war in the Persian Gulf showed, naval forces are needed to guarantee all states freedom of navigation, which is one of the principles of international law.

At the same time, readiness to discuss every problem implies that there are no taboo subjects. As in the past, the military means the Atlantic alliance has at its disposal for the defense of its member-countries depend on the actions of the other side. As the threat of war diminishes, the framework of the present agenda for disarmament talks may be extended.

[Shashkov] The Soviet-U.S. Treaty on Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles is being strictly fulfilled by both sides, which is undoubtedly helping to improve the situation in Europe. Do you not think that the situation would be improved even more by the elimination of tactical nuclear weapons on the continent?

[Coeme] The Belgian Government's stand on this matter is well known. We have always favored starting talks on tactical nuclear weapons in parallel to talks on conventional arms. At the meeting of the heads of state and government of NATO countries, Belgium went along with the decision that these talks can be started as soon as the results of the agreement reached in Vienna begin to be put into practice. I do not think we should delay starting them. Preparations are already under way in NATO, incidentally. The Atlantic alliance has set the aim of reducing the number of tactical nuclear missiles belonging to NATO and the Warsaw Pact to an equal level lower than the present one.

What will be the role of tactical nuclear weapons when the Vienna talks have ended? It is still too early at present to pass final judgement on this issue. However, there is a great difference between the position of most West European countries and that of the Soviet Union. As long as the USSR possesses strategic nuclear weapons, Europe will remain a potential target for this type of weapon and the feeling of danger will persist.

[Shashkov] Now, with the "cold war" era behind us, what kind of role, in your opinion, could NATO and the Warsaw Pact play in further reducing confrontation in Europe? What are the prospects for the politicalization of these alliances?

[Coeme] That is an excellent question, although we should agree on the meaning of the words. In line with its charter, a dominant role is played in the Atlantic alliance by its political wing, so to speak. The military component becomes the predominant force only in the event of

an armed conflict. NATO's supreme organ is civilian and the military committee only drafts recommendations for it.

The North Atlantic alliance unites states which fully retain their sovereignty in the choice of fundamental decisions regarding international relations and defense. So I do not think that "politicalization" is a suitable term. Naturally, the two alliances came into being in the era of confrontation, and now, with a policy of cooperation being conceived in Europe, they must adapt to the new political climate. But what must be done in order to achieve this? Many statesmen and representatives of international organizations express opinions regarding the architecture of the Europe of the future. Links are being sought between existing organizations: military alliances, economic groupings, CSCE, and others. We should not confine all relations between Eastern and Western countries to individual associations. We must think about how to concentrate the achievements of all international organizations on progressing toward a common objective: transforming the policy of confrontation into a policy of cooperation.

This objective is not new. However, until now, we have to some extent been scornful of extending cooperation to the military sphere. I think that NATO and the Warsaw Pact must first and foremost jointly work out criteria of military stability. This has never been attempted so far. So you can imagine just how difficult this task is and how long it will take to resolve.

[Shashkov] The military endeavors of any country are clearly reflected in its military expenditure. Does the Belgian government have any plans to reduce this expenditure?

[Coeme] Let us approach this question from the standpoint of principle. In 1949 Belgium made the decision to build its defense within the framework of the Atlantic alliance. Our defense expenditure is mainly determined by our desire to ensure the fulfillment of the tasks facing our country within this framework. Any revision of this level of expenditure must be coordinated with our allies. The signing of the Vienna treaty will be a new factor which could lead to a revision of this kind.

With regard to the actual state of affairs, I should point out that Belgium's military budget has been shrinking in real terms since 1981 as part of the policy to improve the economy.

[Shashkov] How do you feel about the galvanization of military contacts between the Soviet Union and Belgium? What are you expecting from your visit to Moscow?

[Coeme] Are you aware that Belgium and Russia maintained military contacts in the past? During World War I, a Belgian military center was in operation in Petrograd and Belgian officers sent mobile guns [pushechnyye

broneviki] to the Russian Army. And in 1946 Belgium proposed that a Treaty of Friendship be concluded with the Soviet Union.

The visit by a Belgian military delegation, which I will lead, will to some extent be a continuation of this first attempt made in 1946, which did not succeed because of Europe's division as a result of the "cold war." Our visit fits into the framework of easing tension on the continent. It is very important that we get to know one another better.

Overcoming the burden of the past and building a more harmonious Europe is the task facing all European states. In this context, bilateral ties have paramount significance. Any large organization is inclined to become bureaucratic in nature and to be pervaded with habits rooted in the past. Alliances remain active and dynamic only as long as their individual members remain such themselves and have original, creative initiatives to offer.

That is the spirit in which my visit to Hungary was conducted in November last year, a visit which aimed to establish a dialogue in the military sphere between two countries of similar size. I am going to the Soviet Union with similar ideas. I would like this visit to help to strengthen peaceful, ramified ties between all countries in Europe.

Latin America & Caribbean

Brazil's President-Elect Concludes Visit

PY0202000290 *Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese*
2100 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Report by Jorge von Burger from Bonn]

[Text] President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello has told the Soviet Academy of Sciences members that science and technology are the path that lead to a modern Brazil. He said that during his speech at the academy. He said that biotechnology will speed the process of solving the problem of hunger, that information science will bring great modifications to our productive sector, and that new materials will signify infinite possibilities to improve the industrial sector. He added that other examples will appear in the future.

Collor also said that, within the framework of the modernization process to be implemented during his government, he will give priority to investment and education. The ultimate objectives of the national reorganization process to be implemented can be transferred to the international sector and will create a fairer system that will allow Brazil to overcome, with dignity and sovereignty, the misery and social injustice that afflict poor countries.

Regarding the Brazilian foreign debt, Collor said he will treat the issue responsibly and start the negotiations on basis of a macroeconomic plan for readjustment and

growth, in which the need to obtain foreign credit will be clearly defined. He said: I do not intend to impose anything but we cannot accept contracts that may imply hindering our need to resume our national growth.

Collor quoted Mikhail Gorbachev's comments stating that slowing the pace of growth, thus worsening social and economic problems, is cause for great concern. Collor, who met with Gorbachev yesterday, said that he went to Moscow to personally observe the profound changes being implemented in the USSR and to better understand perestroika and glasnost.

After his speech at the Soviet Academy of Sciences, the president-elect travelled to the FRG. He was welcomed in Bonn by President Richard von Weizsaecker. Tomorrow he will meet with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and other FRG officials.

'Anti-Cuban' TV Transmissions To Start

PM2601155790 *Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA*
in Russian 26 Jan 90 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Fueling Tension"]

[Text] On the eve of the start of transmissions from U.S. territory by the anti-Cuban television station "TV-Marti"—planned for the first half of February—Washington has begun to whip up tension around Cuba.

The newspaper BASTION reported that on 23 January the U.S. battleship Wisconsin arrived at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, on Cuban territory, and that a "Wasp" amphibious landing craft had arrived several days before. At the same time, the article said, the Virginia nuclear missile-carrying cruiser and the Eisenhower aircraft carrier are cruising to the northwest of Miami, in the immediate vicinity of Cuba [as published].

Jose Vicente Rangel, the well-known Venezuelan writer and prominent political figure, has strongly condemned the U.S. Government's intention to begin transmissions by the anti-Cuban "TV-Marti" station. The "TV-Marti" project can be ranked alongside the U.S. armed invasion of Panama and the U.S. authorities' failed plans to blockade the Colombian coast on the pretext of combating narcotics traffic, he said in an interview with PRENSA LATINA. After what happened in Panama, there are no guarantees that the sovereignty of any other Latin American country will be safeguarded, Jose Vicente Rangel stressed.

Castro Hits Capitalist Trends in East Bloc

PM3101153190 *Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA*
PRAVDA in Russian 31 Jan 90 p 3

[Dispatch by own correspondent A. Novikov: "Fidel Castro Declares: Not One Step to Side"]

[Text] Havana—The 16th Congress of the Cuban Working People's Trade Union Center lasted 5 days in

Havana. Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, delivered a great speech at its close.

After noting the "tremendous successes in many spheres" achieved by the Cuban people over the past years and also the process of overcoming "individual shortcomings, mistakes, and negative trends" in the country, the Cuban leader devoted a considerable part of his almost 3-hour speech to the economic and political transformations now taking place in the European socialist countries and to bilateral relations between the USSR and Cuba.

The speech confirmed many of the assessments formulated by the Cuban Communists' leader in the recent past. Without specifically naming the countries of East Europe, F. Castro declared: "The building of capitalism has become the openly declared goal of some of these countries. Capitalism is already being built in some places. Strong procapitalist trends exist in the majority of these countries. There is already talk of the market, private ownership, a market economy. Anticommunist sentiments are gaining strength in these countries—in almost all these countries, you could say, with the exception of the USSR. Strong and growing anticommunist trends in almost all the countries are demanding, above all, the exclusion from national constitutions of the functions which provide for the Communist Party's leading role in society."

Dwelling in detail on CEMA's problems, the Cuban leader emphasized that formally this organization still exists and, what is more, a struggle is being waged for its preservation with Cuba's participation. "However," F. Castro said, "it should be pointed out that changes are taking place within CEMA. And whereas previously it was customary to hear the word 'comrade' at meetings of the CEMA countries' representatives, some people have now excluded this form of address from their vocabulary. Now, on addressing the rest, they say 'ladies and gentlemen.' The terminology has changed."

However, it is to be supposed that it is not "reforms" of this kind within the CEMA framework that are of concern to the Cuban leadership. Obviously, its anxiety is connected primarily with the future of the system of economic relations among the socialist countries and the place that Cuba will occupy in it. "We cannot deceive ourselves, we do not have major oil and gas pipelines, power transmission lines, or railroad lines. We do not know what the governments in these countries will be like. We hope that certain existing trade agreements will still be fulfilled in 1990. Nevertheless, we are not sure of this, and we cannot be sure, since there have been so many disturbances, strikes, distortions, and stoppages of production that we do not know whether we will get the output traditionally supplied to us. It is proposed to adopt a 5-year plan for 1991-1995, but on what basis, with whom, and what output can be guaranteed for our market? What price will they pay for our sugar? Perhaps

they will try to pay for it at the price of the international garbage pit which is the world sugar market?"

F. Castro devoted a separate part of his speech to economic relations between Cuba and the Soviet Union. He said that these have so far "not suffered from these processes." "On the contrary," the PCC Central Committee first secretary emphasized, "the USSR has recently been expressing and is continuing to express the maximum desire to maintain economic relations with us and to continue the trade exchange between the two countries on the same and similar principles. The problems which we are beginning to experience stem chiefly from the difficulties which the Soviet Union itself is experiencing."

However, there is another danger consisting, in the Cuban leadership's opinion, in trends within the USSR which advocate abolishing the type of relationship that now exists between the USSR and Cuba. Supporters of this are represented "not in the government, not in the party, but in the mass media and in parliament."

Commenting on this, F. Castro declared: "The USSR's policy with regard to our country has been magnanimous during all these years of the revolution. But we are not a country begging for alms. We are not a country to which things are donated. How much does it cost to produce 1 tonne of sugar in the USSR? We export millions of tonnes of sugar to the Soviet Union. How much does it cost to produce nickel and cobalt in the USSR? We export tens of thousands of tonnes of nickel and cobalt to the Soviet Union and other East European countries. Important new categories are arising in our country's exports to the Soviet Union. We do not receive gifts; we pay money. If our sugar is sold at a higher price than in the 'world garbage pit,' this price is nonetheless fair because in this way an end has been put to inequitable trade relations. Thus, we see two dangers. On the one hand, the one that stems from the difficulties inherent in the Soviet Union. On the other, the trends which are undoubtedly connected with reaction and imperialism and which campaign openly for relations of this kind to end."

Concluding his speech and speaking about Cuba's future, F. Castro declared: "Let everyone know that the revolution will not back down by a single millimeter. Yes, we will effect changes, really revolutionary changes."

Delay Reported in Food Shipments to Cuba

Cuban Paper Expresses Concern

PM2901154790 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jan 90 p 3

[Dispatch by own correspondent A. Novikov: "CEMA Not United? Why Cuba Has Turned to Canada for Food Aid"]

[Text] Havana—The other day the newspaper GRANMA, the organ of the Communist Party of Cuba

Central Committee, published a long information report from the Council of Ministers Executive Committee couched in quite alarming terms. It stated, in particular: "For 20 years now grain, certain foodstuffs, and important raw materials for the new year have arrived from the Soviet Union ahead of schedule, in November and December. This was aimed at avoiding a disruption of production in the first few months of the year. It has become usual to start the year with grain stocks of approximately 100,000 tonnes. These advance shipments were requested—as they had been in 1989—and the Soviet Union gave a positive reply. Nonetheless, despite the Soviet Government's undoubted desire to provide assistance, difficulties with trade and maritime shipments mean that the grain and flour intended for this January have still not arrived."

It follows from the government report that, because these now traditional advance shipments of Soviet foodstuffs were not received, Cuba found itself in a difficult position and was forced to take a number of extraordinary measures. "Despite the difficulties over foreign currency reserves, of which our people have already been informed," the document states, "the revolutionary government decided to acquire a certain amount of feed grain for freely convertible currency, which could be seen as an exceptional emergency measure." By way of explanation it should obviously be added that this step is seen here as exceptional because transactions relating to grain—which the USSR buys from capitalist countries for foreign currency—were usually conducted with our Cuban friends in transfer rubles.

The Cuban Government has decided to send ships to Canada "to supply wheat for bread manufacture so as to prevent the flour-milling industry from coming to a halt and to reduce grain use for industrial purposes."

Despite these decisions, the government report notes, there have been disruptions to bread supplies to the population in certain provinces. The use of feed grain for cattle has had to be completely stopped, and its utilization has also been cut back to the detriment of hog-rearing and certain forms of poultry farming. If further cuts are needed in the future, "several million birds will have to be slaughtered early, with a consequent drop in poultry production and later in egg production. State reserves have already been used."

Moreover, the government reported that for the past 2 months Cuban citrus fruit exports have seriously suffered "owing to the shortage of ships from Poland, the GDR, and mainly the Soviet Union which, under existing accords, should have been in Cuban ports. According to forecasts, the ship shortage will lead to new export delays, raising a threat of the loss of tens of thousands of tonnes of already harvested fruit and fruit yet to be harvested."

As for Cuban citrus fruit, the delivery shortfall over the past year should be of the order of 90,000 tonnes, and approximately one-third of the losses can indeed be

explained by the lack of ships. Specialists see the drought and the inadequate throughput capacity of Cuban ports as other reasons for the drop in the harvest. After all, there are also cases of Soviet ships with their precious cargo of wheat standing idle here for 20 to 30 days waiting to be unloaded.

On the other hand, how do we explain Cuba's sudden problems with grain? By our country's reluctance to carry out its obligations? By the numerous economic difficulties which it is encountering itself? Or perhaps by new approaches in the foreign policy sphere? As it turns out, none of these assumptions is correct. Turning for an explanation to competent Soviet specialists in the sphere of foreign economic relations, I discovered that in this instance it was a question not of any cuts in our shipments to Cuba, but just of a slight—approximately month-long—delay in the arrival there of the so-called advance shipments of Soviet foodstuffs and raw materials for 1990. The ships are already en route, incidentally. As for the planned shipments from the USSR last year, I am told that they were 100 percent fulfilled, if not more. Thus, in 1989 our country shipped to Cuba more than 1 million tonnes of wheat, 300,000 tonnes of corn, 170,000 tonnes of flour, and so forth.

So just what underlies the alarm evident in literally every line of the quoted document? The answer can probably be found in the following phrase: "Bearing in mind the international situation and its unpredictable consequences for our country, we should be prepared to solve problems wherever they crop up." If this is compared with last year's statement by the Cuban leader on the "crisis in the countries of the socialist camp, from which we can expect only negative consequences for our country in terms of economic development," we can conclude that the Cuban leadership's concern has been prompted above all by the changes currently taking place in most of the East European socialist countries and in the economic relations between them. After all, back in December 1989 F. Castro directly raised the question of whether it is possible to "improve socialism while rejecting the most elementary principles of Marxism-Leninism. Why should so-called reform be pursued in a capitalist direction?" Subsequently at this month's CEMA session in Sofia, the Cuban side, while supporting the idea of completely restructuring CEMA, opposed the transition to world prices and the implementation of payments for mutual trade in convertible currency, clearly believing that these steps would do Cuba no good.

However, judging by everything, there are currently no grounds for thinking that the USSR's approaches to economic relations with Cuba are changing in any respect. At least, speaking at the same CEMA session, Soviet Premier N.I. Ryzhkov included it among the three countries "which need a special approach."

Delay in Shipments Explained

PY2901224890 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America
2300 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Commentary by (Vladimir Benediktov)]

[Text] The Soviet press has analyzed the Cuban Government's recent decision to ration the supply of various staples. One of the reasons frequently mentioned with concern is the fact that the Soviets have not fulfilled their commitment to supply early shipments of grains to Cuba.

Today we invited (Vladimir Benediktov), Soviet representative to the Soviet-Cuban Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Cooperation, to our studio. We asked him what happened.

According to (Vladimir Benediktov), the Soviet Union has been supplying food, flour, and forage to Cuba for the past 30 years. (Benediktov) pointed out that for nearly 20 years it has shipped in advance—at the end of each year on the account of the coming year—small quantities of grains, flour, and other products to ensure the regular operation of the Cuban economy during the early months of the year.

The Soviet Government agreed to ship 50,000 tons of grains, 20,000 tons of flour, and various other goods at the end of 1989. The shipments, however, did not arrive in Cuba in time because of various reasons. The two most important were the following: First, the Soviet merchant fleet has had to retire many old ships from service over the past few years without receiving any new units to replace them; second—and this is closely linked to the first—this scarcity has forced the Soviet Union to rent foreign vessels and to use scarce hard currency to continue this commitment.

In 1989 the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations could not find complementary resources to carry out the shipping. It should be noted that the Soviet Union year by year has been increasing its spending of hard currency to fulfill its commitments.

The Soviet Union last year shipped over 1.6 million tons of cargo to Cuba just in chartered foreign ships.

I must say, insists (Vladimir Benediktov), that some of the Soviet organizations responsible for these shipments are working to ensure that future grain and flour shipments are carried out just as before.

(Benediktov) concludes by saying: I want to assure you, dear Cuban friends, that Cuban-Soviet cooperation will continue to improve within the spirit of the treaty of friendship and cooperation that was signed by our two countries during the April summit in Havana last year and according to the results of the meeting between Comrades Nikolay Ryzhkov and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez in Sofia.

IZVESTIYA Report Cited

PY3001220790 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress
in Spanish 0330 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] IZVESTIYA has published an article by its Havana correspondent, (Andrey Kamuri), entitled "Who Is To Blame?"

The article says, among other things, that the Cuban media have issued a report that is aimed at each Cuban family. The government message says that, despite the Soviet Government's undisputable desire to cooperate, current trade and maritime transportation difficulties have caused a delay in the grain and flour shipments due this month.

We must point out that the shipments in question are shipments made in advance of the contracted schedule, an ordinary practice over the past 20 years. These cargoes, which are mainly grains purchased by the Soviet Union for Cuba in third countries, used to be shipped in advance on the cargo account scheduled for the following year to create a food stockpile in the country.

The Soviet Union has fulfilled its 1989 commitment of grain sales to Cuba, but the advance supply for the 1990 account suffered, in effect, a delay. In any case, Cuba did not create any food stockpile.

The situation forced the Cuban Government to implement drastic measures: to reduce and ration the sale of bread in the provinces and to raise the price in the capital, where sales are unregulated. The government implemented extraordinary measures to alleviate the present difficulties, quickly deciding to purchase a certain amount of grain with hard currency. But this step, without a doubt, must be considered extraordinary, because the island's availability of hard currency is in fact reduced.

Unfavorable weather has affected Cuban sugar cane harvests over the past few years, and sugar is Cuba's main source of hard currency. Another method by which Cuba earns hard currency is through the export of Soviet oil. But, because of the drop in oil prices on the world market, the results here have also been below expected levels.

The official Cuban document also points out that, due to the unavailability of merchant ships in the GDR, Poland, and mainly the Soviet Union, which would have taken Cuban citrus fruits to the USSR, a percentage of the cargo was in danger of rotting and had to be distributed in the internal market. Of course, this means that the Soviet Union will not receive the fruit within the time period established in the contract.

The Cuban document repeatedly mentions the transport problems that have effectively turned our relations into a problem. The Soviet merchant fleet dedicates some 300 ships to Cuba, and some 100 Soviet ships are docked in Cuban ports every day. The Cuban fleet is relatively

small for its volume of trade, and it is also responsible for earning hard currency for the country by transporting cargoes for third countries.

Unfortunately, the lack of modern equipment at Cuban ports, the chronic scarcity of transportation, and the shortage of warehouses force Soviet ships to dock for long periods at the island, effectively playing the role of floating warehouses for stock. A solution to the transportation problem could alleviate the situation.

The present cooperation difficulties between our two countries highlight the fact that many complex problems have accumulated that require urgent solutions, concludes (Andrey Kamuri).

Soviet Ships Arrive With Wheat

PM3101142590 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 30 Jan 90 p 3

[Dispatch by own correspondent A. Novikov: "Grain—Bone of Contention"]

[Text] Havana—KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published earlier the report of the Cuban Council of Ministers Executive Committee (27 January 1990). Essentially, it states that during the past 2 months Cuba has for the first time in the history of our relations not received from the Soviet Union the so-called advance deliveries of grain for 1990. This, the report indicates, is the reason for the abnormal situation which has developed on the island in bread supplies to the population and also in certain livestock sectors. As a result, the Cuban Government has been forced to raise prices for eggs and bread and also to cut distribution rates. Indirectly, responsibility for the exacerbation of the food problem in Cuba is to some extent attributed to the USSR.

On 24 January GRANMA published "Additional information in connection with the situation concerning grain shipments," which, judging by appearances, was to soften the impact of what had been said earlier.

Two days before the publication of the government statement, and on the day of its publication two Soviet ships arrived in Cuban ports with some 43,000 tonnes of wheat on board. It is also reported that in accordance with Soviet-Cuban accords, wheat for Cuba is currently being loaded onto ships in Canadian, French, and Belgian ports.

Nonetheless, the government decision adopted a week ago seems to remain in force.

Shortfalls in Soviet-Cuban Economic Cooperation

LD2601171190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1600 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Text] Our Havana correspondent Viktor Gorbachev reports on problems in Cuban-Soviet economic cooperation at Cuban construction projects and enterprises and in reciprocal trade.

[V. Gorbachev] Last year 150 projects were in operation in Cuba; 20 projects were completed. A general shortcoming has been the slow pace of construction work. We are also to blame. On occasion equipment is being delayed or not being delivered on schedule or else in general poor quality equipment is arriving. There are faults too on the Cuban side. There are shortcomings in materials and work, and there is a need to strengthen discipline.

The nickel combine in the town of Moa, a major cooperation project, has failed yet again. It sends output to our country also. It must be said that this enterprise has long since become a negative example of Soviet-Cuban cooperation. It is in no way able to operate at its rated performance. It is frankly as though some evil fate is dominating it. In the past so many wrong decisions have been adopted, so many mistakes committed, and so much defective work carried out that despite every effort the combine has not managed as yet to organize normal functioning.

For Soviet enterprise with access to the foreign market it is advantageous to sell their output not in Cuba but in other socialist countries or, if quality permits, in capitalist ones. In order to interest them in the Cuban market our specialists think it is necessary to alter the system of payment for deliveries to Cuba. The shortfall in deliveries on our side according to the estimates of our own specialists amounted to about R150 million. This is more than last year. We did not fulfill our commitments for petroleum products and also for a number of consumer goods including refrigerators and television sets.

As for Cuba there was a shortfall in its deliveries to us of about 100,000 tonnes of citrus fruit. Nor were the plans for a number of other goods fulfilled. The Cubans did meet their commitments regarding sugar though only with great difficulty.

Commentator Views Soviet-Cuban Trade Situation

PY2701163290 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0130 GMT
24 Jan 90

[Commentary by Vladimir Korotkov]

[Text] The Western media have again created a new uproar on Soviet-Cuban relations, this time regarding trade. Western media categorically assert that the USSR is severing Soviet-Cuban trade ties. The following is Korotkov's commentary:

During my life as a journalist I have witnessed similar campaigns, which were carried out for specific purposes or for no purpose at all. Those campaigns were carried out in different forms, but they always sought the same objective: to sow mistrust among our peoples and to create enmity between the USSR and Cuba.

But now let us discuss the essence of the problem.

The USSR economy is currently experiencing a very difficult situation. We are eliminating a system of bureaucratic administration and implementing new economic methods.

The introduction of those economic methods inevitably meets resistance and difficulties. The Soviet press is filled with reports about frustrated shipments of products and merchandise.

The results of this new economic management policy are yet to be seen. Television sets, refrigerators, and many other articles that were abundant until recently have disappeared from stores. The situation of staples is quite difficult. For example, I can tell you that sugar is being rationed. Moreover, products such as meat and butter are being rationed in many regions of the country.

Let us review the situation of Cuban trade. The trade agreement for 1989 was signed in March 1989. This agreement provided for the continued increase of Soviet-Cuban trade until it reaches 9 billion rubles per year.

Have these plans been fulfilled? For the time being we have no official reports. That is why I phoned comrades from the Soviet-Cuban Intergovernmental Commission for Economic, Technical, and Scientific Cooperation. They told me that last year the Soviet Union fulfilled its commitments to Cuba, including those concerning food staples.

(Vladimir Benediktov), the secretary responsible for this commission, said that he will soon speak over Moscow International Radio to discuss in detail the situation of Soviet supplies to Cuba. Moreover, it has already been said that the supply of Soviet products to Cuba for 1990 has already started.

Cosmonaut Comments on Soviet-Cuban Relations

*PY3001212990 Moscow in Spanish to Cuba 0130 GMT
27 Jan 90*

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We asked a man who, in our view, is very well known, Vladimir Shatalov, cosmonaut and president of the Soviet-Cuban Friendship Society, how the conflict between the two Transcaucasian regions can be solved. [passage omitted]

Do you believe the federation can be saved? I believe it can be saved, Vladimir Shatalov replied. I can understand our Baltic peoples and their desire to live, as they say, to commit their own mistakes and to be responsible for their own errors. I am referring to the regional economic self-administration, but self-administration

should be fair. Sometimes prices will go up in a region and its inhabitants will go to a neighboring republic where goods are cheaper, leaving shops empty.

On some days no newspapers come out in Estonia, says Vladimir Shatalov, because there is no newsprint, because the plant was closed down, or because the plant was contaminating something. But why should this plant be located in Russia, spewing smoke and contaminating everything? In Russia, by the way, the chemical industry of the federation is concentrated. Fair economic relations must be established. Each republic must live with what it produces. I believe this principle should be extended to the socialist countries.

Are you referring to Cuba?

Cuba is the first country on the American Continent that has begun to build socialism, Vladimir Shatalov said. The island is building socialism in its own way, with its own laws, taking advantage of our experience—which is not always the most appropriate—committing its own mistakes, and rectifying its errors in its own way. Cuba has its difficulties, and our duty is to help them. Our relations have been maintained on the basis of reciprocal interests, but this is another subject.

How would you evaluate the information from some Western media, which says that the fact that the Soviet Union has not fulfilled its commitment to supply grains to Cuba is a form of economic pressure?

There is no such pressure on Cuba, says Vladimir Shatalov. There is currently a need for reorganization, just as we are doing in the Soviet Union. There are new problems emerging in the socialist countries. Let us remember what Mikhail Gorbachev said at the National Assembly of the People's Government in Cuba during his visit last year: Gorbachev said that every socialist country has its own peculiarities, its own model for development, and that the force of socialism can be found in the many methods of development. I would like to add that it would be a good thing if fewer mistakes and hasty decisions were made.

Regarding the situation of the grain commitment that has not been fully fulfilled by the Soviet Union, the Soviet media has reported that the delay was caused by transportation problems. We have never said that there are no problems in Soviet-Cuban economic relations. There are problems, and they must be solved. I believe that what I am going to say now is a general opinion: The Soviet Union is interested in maintaining mutually beneficial relations with Cuba.

Transcaucasus Situation**Baku Commandant on Easing Curfew Regulations***LD0102181490 Moscow TASS in English 1802 GMT
1 Feb 90*

[Text] Baku February 1 TASS—By TASS special correspondents Pavel Sinyakov and Vladimir Fomin:

The first day of February became the day of the first news conference for foreign, as well as Soviet journalists following the declaration of the state of emergency in the capital of Azerbaijan.

Nineteen representatives of the West's leading news agencies, television journalists from the United States, Great Britain, the German Democratic Republic and Turkey came here from Moscow on Wednesday [31 January].

Their questions about the situation in the city were fielded by the Baku commandant, Lieutenant-General Vladimir Dubinyak, and other representatives of the Armed Forces, party and local government bodies of Azerbaijan.

Dubinyak said that the military command had worked out a four-stage plan to ease curfew regulations in the Azerbaijani capital imposed in connection with ethnic disturbances.

The plan envisages the reduction by one hour of the duration of the curfew, the removal of armoured vehicles from city streets, the patrolling of streets by unarmed soldiers and, finally, the lifting of the curfew.

The journalists attending the news conference were told that 12,000 Interior Ministry troops and 5,000 regular Army soldiers had been deployed in 12 administrative sectors of the city, including the airport.

Cadets of the Baku General Military Commanders College and the Caspian Naval School also patrolled and guarded major state facilities.

City 'Returned to Normal'*NC0202055590 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
0430 GMT 2 Feb 90*

[Notice issued by Lieutenant General Dubinyak, military commandant of Baku city; read by announcer]

[Text] The situation remained peaceful in Baku city last night. [passage indistinct] Seven individuals were detained (?overnight). [passage indistinct]

The situation is gradually stabilizing in the city. Life has returned to normal. [passage indistinct]

The military units are doing everything possible to protect [words indistinct] and security in the city. [Signed] Lieutenant General Dubinyak, military commandant of Baku city

People's Front Council Criticized*LD0102202290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1600 GMT 1 Feb 90*

[Text] [Announcer] Our special correspondents Islam Kuliyeu and Leonid Lazarevich continue with the subject of the situation in the Transcaucasus. Here is their report from Baku:

[Correspondent] It is Thursday, the traditional day of remembrance. Thousands of people gathered in Nagornyy Park where the dead of the tragic events are buried. The leaders of the republic, including Comrade Mutalibov, first secretary of the Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committee, also came here to honor their memory. It may be said today that the heat of passions has abated, but the struggle continues in the city—it is a struggle for its future. All of the transportation is now practically fully operational and more and more enterprises are beginning to work normally.

Baku is producing slightly over half its normal production output, according to the latest report from the State Committee for Statistics. Calls for a continuation of strikes are also coming from the Azerbaijani People's Front. As I see it, this organization is very, very heterogeneous, containing both healthy and frankly extremist forces. The acute nature of the present tension lies precisely in the opposition and covert confrontation of these forces.

The newspaper AZERBAIJAN of the Committee for Popular Aid to Karabakh, and AZADLYK of the Azerbaijani People's Front have been closed down by the military authorities. Rumors have appeared that the People's Front itself has been banned. A question about this was put to Lieutenant General Dubinyak, a military commandant of Baku, at one of the meetings that have taken place. This was his reply:

[Begin Dubinyak recording] Well, for a start, the People's Front is an officially registered public organization. It is registered by the Azerbaijani Government. And its subsequent fate must be decided by the Azerbaijani Government, and not some military commandant who has arrived here and is deciding whether Azerbaijan is to have a People's Front or not. It is another matter that its so-called National Defense Council, its structural part, has assumed a clearly criminal position. So do I believe that the military commandant should interfere in all these things? No, I see my role as being considerably more modest. There is a party Central Committee here. Is there one? [unidentified voices shout: There is!] There is. There is a Council of Ministers. Is it the government? It is the government. All the structures of state and party power exist here. They are given money and they should perform their functions. [end recording]

And one more thing: An increasing number of representatives of the news media are involved in covering the events in Baku. Last night a large group of foreign journalists flew in. Two press conferences were held for

them. It is just a pity that the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist Party, which organized the meetings, forgot to invite Soviet journalists. Well, we shall find out from abroad what was said at these press conference!

Central Press Continues Reportage of Events

Armenians Probe Killing

PM0102205390 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 2 Feb 90 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "How Is Legality Perceived. Following Up Published Report"]

[Text] It was already reported that in Yerevan on 28 January a Soviet Army subunit confiscated a tank, an infantry combat vehicle, an armored personnel carrier, eight tracked and wheeled vehicles, and three hail guns which had been previously captured by extremists. Following this up, the newspaper KOMMUNIST, organ of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers, published on 30 January a report entitled "In the Republic Council on the State of Emergency." It said, in particular, that the Republic Council on the State of Emergency had a sitting 29 January to examine the incident which occurred in Yerevan's 26 Commissars Rayon on 28 January. It was noted, the report went on to say, that a military subunit carried out an operation to confiscate military equipment without coordination with the relevant republic organs of state power. Arms were used during the operation, and this resulted in the death of E.A. Markosyan, a worker at the "Astro" Production Association.

"The republic Prosecutor's Office," the report announced, "has opened a criminal case and an investigation has been launched jointly with the Military Prosecutor's Office... The republic's leadership resolutely condemns this irresponsible act and confirms its firm stance that all questions, including the confiscation of weapons, must be resolved primarily by methods of persuasion and serious explanatory work among the population, with strict observance of legality...."

In this case, the logic of interpreting Soviet laws is—to say the least—strange. Some people in Armenia are ready to describe as an irresponsible act not the illegal possession of weapons, never mind the capture of combat equipment, which is a crime in itself, but the confiscation of weapons. The criminal case was not opened because combat and other military equipment had been captured. It came into being only when it became necessary to use force to ensure the return of weapons which had ended up in the hands of extremist elements.

It is permissible to ask: Do people in the republic Prosecutor's Office consider legal, for example, the fact

that all infantry combat vehicles held for training purposes by the Yerevan State University Military Department have been hijacked? Or the capture of an anti-aircraft gun from the Yerevan Polytechnical Institute Military Department? How is it possible to reconcile with the law the far from isolated cases of attacks on military subunits, militia, and paramilitary security guards in the Armenian SSR and the Azerbaijan SSR for the purpose of capturing arms? The quantity of weapons in the hands of extremist groups in the region is today counted in thousands of units. There have been numerous reported instances of these weapons having been used against the population for the purpose of bandit attacks and robberies.

Millions of Soviet people are following the tragic events in the Transcaucasus with anguish and alarm. They demand an end to the senseless and cruel bloodshed. State organs are taking resolute measures to impose order and to protect democracy and the citizens' safety. There are, however, people in both republics who are unwilling to obey reason and common sense, who do not heed the calls to hand in their weapons and to utilize the only possible method for resolving the conflict—dialogue and the achievement of mutual understanding. In these conditions, is it possible to accept as effective the measures being taken by the Armenian SSR leadership, will the expected results be produced by the "methods of persuasion and serious explanatory work among the population" spoken of in the aforementioned report?

Shots are still being fired in the Transcaucasus from weapons in the hands of extremist terrorist elements. People are dying as a consequence. This is precisely why it was necessary to resort to help from the Army to confiscate weapons from the extremists. Soviet soldiers, performing their duty, are doing everything possible to stabilize the situation as quickly as possible and to bring peace and tranquility to this land. Moreover, they often risk their lives, operating under fire and suffering losses. They encountered armed resistance in Yerevan also on 28 January. They were forced to open fire in response. They are not to blame because one of those who were the first to open fire was killed.

While expressing regret over a man's death, it is impossible not to emphasize that it looks as if this tragedy has again taught no lesson to nationalistically inclined leaders of informal associations. On the contrary, they have taken advantage of it to whip up tension in Armenia. A many-thousands-strong rally was held in Yerevan's Theater Square 29 January, at which leaders of the so-called Armenian National Army—of which E. Markosyan, who died the previous day, was a member—called on the audience not to surrender their weapons and threatened an armed uprising. The paramilitary security guards at "Rast" Plant in Echmiadzin City and the Yerevan City Internal Affairs Department were attacked that same day, and 116 units of firearms were stolen.

This is yet further confirmation of the far-reaching criminal irresponsibility of those who strive to intoxicate Armenia's people with nationalist passions and who are pushing them toward the abyss. It seems that reports like the one carried by the aforementioned newspaper promote anything but a peaceful solution to the conflict in the Transcaucasus.

Criticism of Troops Rebutted

PM0102155190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 31 Jan 90 First Edition p 1

[Colonel V. Vlasenko article: "On Statement by Deputy Chairman of Baku City Soviet Executive Committee: I Beg To Differ"]

[Text] I would hardly have ventured to write had it not been for the speech on Baku radio and the article in Sunday's edition of the republic newspaper VYSHKA by K. Shcherbakov, deputy chairman of the Baku City Soviet Executive Committee. In those items the esteemed Konstantin Vasilyevich accused the military of organizing the evacuation of their own families and said that in so doing the officers had set a bad example to the city's Russian-speaking population.

Is that the case? For several days my military colleagues and I, together with airborne assault troops, guarded the homes of servicemen's families in apartment block No. 3 on Dzhabiyev Street and the adjacent apartment blocks in Baku's residential district No. 4. I am not going to talk about the shooting, that happened everywhere. I am just going to talk about the attitude toward us shown not by the people but by groups of rabid nationalists and hooligans living in neighboring blocks. We heard so many threats and insults during those days! We were called "fascists," "occupiers," and "butchers."

We can point to the apartments from whose balconies threats and abuse were hurled. Our families, including our children, did not learn from newspapers or rumors but saw with their own eyes how Armenians' apartments were wrecked and pillaged. Their possessions were burned on bonfires. The robbers are still living quite confidently in the area today.

When soldiers from the internal forces were summoned to stop a pogrom representatives of the Azerbaijan People's Front went to the apartment of a colleague of mine, also a colonel, threatening to set fire to it and make short work of his entire family.

I should like to ask Comrade Shcherbakov where he and the law enforcement organs under his jurisdiction, many members of which are now on the side of the militant extremists, were on the night of 14 January and much earlier when robbery, murder, and pogroms went on completely unchecked? You shouldn't accuse us in your panic, Konstantin Vasilyevich.

Rear Services' Role Described

PM0102152190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 1 Feb 90 First Edition p 4

[Interview with Lieutenant General V. Litvinov, first deputy chief of Armed Forces Rear Services, by nonstaff correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Uzhegov under rubric "Emergency Situation": "Things Are Hot in Rear Too"]

[Text] Military rear service units and subunits are operating under complex conditions in the Transcaucasus. Our nonstaff correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Uzhegov talks about this with Lieutenant General V. Litvinov, first deputy chief of the Armed Forces Rear Services.

[Uzhegov] Vladislav Ivanovich, how is the work of rear servicemen organized in the Transcaucasus?

[Litvinov] An operations group headed by Major General A. Koltunov, deputy chief of staff of the Armed Forces Rear Services, has been created. The group is working around the clock, coordinating the actions of the rear services at the center and locally and reacting promptly to the changing situation. In addition, an operations group headed by Lieutenant General B. Kopytov is operating in parallel in the Transcaucasus Military District.

[Uzhegov] What difficulties are they encountering?

[Litvinov] The numerical strength of our services is designed for work under peaceful conditions, but here they have had to operate in a front-line manner, with great workloads, frequently under fire from militants and snipers. Senior Lieutenant A. Pletyukhin, commander of a motor transport company, displayed selflessness and determination by organizing the 24-hour delivery of materiel to Baku Military Garrison under extreme conditions. Servicemen of that subunit then evacuated servicemen's families.

A shortage of fuel for combat vehicles arose while raising the blockade of military installations. Drivers—Sergeant A. Kolomiyets and Private G. Sklifas—forced their way through to the subunits and refueled the vehicles. And when the fuel shortage began to be felt in the garrison as a whole, Lieutenant Colonel V. Sarkisov, chief of the fuel service, personally headed a column of fuel tankers and, despite being fired on and encountering obstacles on the roads, managed to get it through.

[Uzhegov] Clearly, now that the situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia is being stabilized, it is possible to sum up some results of the rear servicemen's work.

[Litvinov] I would like to mention the clothing service specialists. They delivered more than 16,000 armored vests to Azerbaijan alone. Ensign V. Chernyshov, for example, had to get them to the subunits while literally under fire. The lives of hundreds of people were saved as a result.

Our primary concern was and still is to provide servicemen, their families, and the population with everything necessary. Interruptions in the bread supply arose. Field bakeries were deployed at once. Bakers were brought from other districts. I will note this fact: The bakery where Senior Lieutenant I. Sych is chief baked 22 tonnes of bread in 3 days and nights—more than the norm. In all, we forwarded almost 300 tonnes of food to Armenia and Azerbaijan. Precisely 23 mobile water tankers were mobilized to supply Baku Garrison and the population with water. We handed over more than 10,000 tonnes of fuel to civilian organizations. We saw to people's medical supplies by forwarding approximately 20 tonnes of additional medicines and equipment.

The work of the rear servicemen is continuing. We are operating in contact with military transport aviation. Approximately 200 aircraft take off every day with our freight.

Fleeing Families Aided

PM0102154990 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 31 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[Report by TASS correspondent B. Belyakov under rubric "Echo of Events": "Volga People Welcome Refugees"]

[Text] Volga-Urals Military District—Some 250 officers' families have arrived in Kuybyshev from the Transcaucasus. With no time to collect their things the majority arrived without warm clothing or the most essential items. Heated tents have been set up at all the airfields where the refugees are arriving and food is being organized for them. People in need were issued with soldiers' insulated jackets. Garrison women's councils have taken care of the children.

From the airfields the evacuees were taken to the railway station, travel documents were issued, and food for the journey was given out. Each family chose its own route. As a rule people went to their relatives. But there are also quite a few people with no close relatives in Russia. These families have been taken under the care of a service commanded by Major General A. Trepalin, deputy commander of the district's rear services. The best section of the military sanatorium has been allocated to the evacuees.

In addition to the oblast executive committee staff, a considerable share of the burden has been borne by Armenian, Jewish, and Tatar cultural centers. An account has been opened to receive money to help the victims. All adults will be found jobs. The children will soon go to school, and the older ones to college or technical school.

The district command is now helping officers' wives to get in contact with their husbands. After all, many of them still do not know where their relatives are and how they are getting on.

I can give this assurance: Not a single family has been overlooked, everyone has been given accommodation and provided with all the necessities. It couldn't be any other way—the army's strength lies in its fraternity and mutual assistance.

Transcaucasus Coverage Criticized

PM0102123390 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 30 Jan 90 Second Edition p 4

[TASS Observer V. Petrunya "Rejoinder": "Truth as an Obstacle"]

[Text] Truth is worth its weight in gold these days, particularly the truth about extraordinary, tumultuous events and phenomena of life. Needless to say, millions of Soviet people are daily glued to the newspaper pages, television screens, and radios to find out how the difficult processes of normalization of life in Azerbaijan and Armenia are developing.

The extremists are also well aware of the value of each word of truth. That is why, although losing ground, they are not abandoning their tried and tested weapon—lies. Unfortunately, there are times when they are not the only ones circulating incorrect information and all manner of rumors and fiction about the situation in the Transcaucasus and about the nature of the events occurring there. Sometimes certain unscrupulous journalists get involved in this. Lieutenant Colonel V. Podolin, spokesman for the internal forces' Political Directorate, asked TASS special correspondents in Baku to convey through agency channels a protest in connection with an item in a Moscow paper in which the writer claimed that by the time the state of emergency was declared the pogroms and outrages were on the decline. And the journalist was citing allegedly official reports. But the facts indicate the opposite: It was the introduction of troops that put a stop to the escalation of violence and helped create conditions for establishing order.

I will not name the paper: I hope the editorial board has the decency to apologize to its readers.

TASS special correspondent N. Demidov returned from an assignment in Baku having not only seen militants on the rampage, but having also witnessed the selflessness of the soldiers, many militia officers, and ordinary citizens, who are dedicated to normalizing the situation as an essential condition of the lifting of the state of emergency. The journalist, armed with his pen, was with the internal forces when they took up position to repulse attacks by militants in the vicinity of the square named for the 26 Baku Commissars and slept, like the soldiers, not in a bunk, but on the bare floor of an administrative building or even beneath an armored personnel carrier.

Captain Ye. Pilyagin needed a mere couple of seconds to save the TASS correspondent from the clutches of berserk terrorists. Home truths are unpalatable indeed. The militants had decided to round up impartial journalists.

In view of this, one was surprised, to put it mildly, by the "irate" assessment of reports TASS is receiving on the situation in the Transcaucasian republics that was given on Sunday's "Seven Days" television program by well known television journalist A. Tikhomirov. It was not the tiresome stuff about the "apparatus" playing its notorious "games": For some reason, the television journalist was very keen to remove the cloak of "anonymity" from the TASS reports. It is true that N. Demidov, who was being hunted by militants, often had to take refuge behind the anonymous "TASS" sign-off. Indeed, at first his reports reflected more horrible, bloody scenes of violence and enormities than evidence of normal life. Just one thing is missing from this impassioned journalism—anonymous assertions such as "we think" or "it seems to us," like those that were uttered in front of the television cameras.

I frankly admit that I have not had occasion to go to the state of emergency zone. Therefore, I tend not to believe those in Moscow who are trying to convey to the public their view of the events there and who are irritated by the fact that there are other opinions about the situation. I believe those whose impressions are drawn from contact with real life.

They, our colleagues, can make mistakes sometimes, it is true. Inaccuracies have occurred in TASS reports. It is a nuisance. One can understand it, in view of the extreme circumstances, but one cannot accept it.

And one certainly cannot accept the pinning of the notorious "apparatus" label on colleagues who only recently were having to dictate their reports to the editorial office while under fire. One could have mentioned journalistic ethics, of course. But it is probably better to quote the well known satirist: Be more thorough, men, more thorough.

'Evil People' Blamed for Unrest

*PM0102144190 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 30 Jan 90 Second Edition p 2*

[Article by V. Yanchenkov, chief of USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs Department in Charge of Liaison With Mass Media: "Those Who Benefit From Tragic Events in Transcaucasus: Evil Force"]

[Text] The fact that the pogroms, murders, seizure of hostages and weapons, blockading of transport routes, strikes, and other unlawful actions which have shaken the transcaucasian republics are inspired by powerful forces defending their own selfish interests is now obvious.

Major clan-based criminal associations controlling the criminal sphere of the shadow economy, the sale of drugs, speculation, and a number of other areas of criminal activity were created in Azerbaijan and Armenia during the years of stagnation. It was then that a stratum of corrupt elements formed in law-enforcement, soviet, and party bodies. The practice of officials doing favors for

money, jobs sold for cash, and mutual cover-ups permeated virtually every social structure. The inflation of the prices for scarce goods, various kinds of extortion, bribery in the state apparatus, the procurements system, and consumer services, and other sectors of the national economy became the rule and an everyday reality for a considerable part of the population.

The criminal network connected with the cotton industry in Azerbaijan's Shamkhorskiy Rayon, for example, covered several collective farms [kolkhoz] and involved a number of party, soviet, and economic workers and representatives of the organs of the court and prosecutor's office. The state suffered losses to the tune of R20 million. Around 900 people were indicted.

Members of criminal groups controlled very important areas within the economic mechanism in a number of sectors and suppressed virtually every system of social control, suborning and discrediting workers controlling law-enforcement and other agencies. As a result of such actions 16 workers at a Baku pasta factory who had misappropriated R60,000 remained virtually unpunished.

According to information in the possession of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD], a number of top officials in Armenia and Azerbaijan each year bought up scarce imported industrial goods worth R50,000-100,000. Not, of course, with money earned through their own labor.

In the situation of destabilization in Azerbaijan the system of stealing wine and spirits formed over many years continues to operate. In stores in Kirovobad, Agdam, Khanlar, Shamkhor, and other cities, for example, large consignments of wine and spirits have been sold "under the counter" for half the state price. In 1989, organs of the USSR MVD and the KGB Administration for Saratov Oblast exposed a number of workers in the trade network extensively engaged in bootlegging. In Saratov stores smart operators from Azerbaijan sold hooch produced in clandestine distilleries. Law-enforcement agencies closed down three distilleries producing ersatz vodka and brandy, the raw material for which, worth in excess of R150,000, was stolen from enterprises in Kirovobad, Khanlar, and Shamkhor.

Last July two inhabitants of Azerbaijan were arrested while attempting to sell 44 cases of brandy stolen from the Gyandzhinskiy brandy distillery. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against workers in a store belonging to the Volzhskiy Rayon food trade establishment who had bought up stolen brandy worth around R150,000.

These examples represent merely the tip of the underground shadow economy enrooted in the transcaucasus. Naturally the criminal associations, which possess enormous influence and unlimited financial opportunities, have a vital interest in maintaining the practices established during the time of stagnation.

And what is noteworthy is that the stepping up of measures designed to instill order and expose corruption has caused fierce opposition from the criminal societies and clans. The destabilization of the situation in the region through exacerbating interethnic relations dates from precisely that time. The plan clearly was to weaken and curtail the work of investigating large-scale embezzlement and cases of bribery and corruption.

The calls for civil disobedience, the organization of pogroms, and the offering of armed resistance to the forces of law and order—all this is directed against the stabilization of the situation and is fundamentally at variance with the interests of the working class, the peasantry, and the people's intelligentsia while benefitting the corrupt, the smart operators of the shadow economy, and the leaders of extremist, nationalist circles.

Why do I speak about this with such complete certainty? They are no longer in a position to oppose perestroika by other means and methods. Having exhausted the stock of conventional methods of combating the state undergoing renewal, the extremists have exerted their divisive influence on the masses and used the destruction, including physical destruction, of those who think differently as their basic weapon.

The presence of specially trained fighters, instructed in methods of hand-to-hand combat, the use of firearms, edged weapons, and explosives, and the mastery of the tactics of resisting the law-enforcement organs give the extremist groups a structural and functional resemblance to organized criminal associations.

And it is not just an external resemblance. Like other organized crime organizations throughout the world the extremist, nationalist associations have ramified international connections. The Armenian diaspora in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Lebanon and international Islamic centers are actively engaged in supplying the nationalists with video equipment, duplicators, and computers.

The events taking place in the transcaucasus are being played out according to the same scenario earlier enacted in Sumgait, Fergana, and Nagorno-Karabakh. Then, as now, large groups of adolescents and youths are employed as the strike arm. Rocks are collected in advance. Hysteria is fueled by groups of women. Rumors of "atrocities" committed by outsiders are spread. Terrorist acts are perpetrated to intimidate the population. Cases of large sums of money being paid for participation in pogroms and the organization of disturbances have been recorded.

The central organs' effort in the last 2 years to tackle the region's difficult problems by peaceful, political means has clearly been seen as a sign of weakness by the corrupt, extremist circles. They have therefore switched to overt, active, unlawful actions aimed at forcibly changing the state and social system enshrined in the USSR Constitution. Here, as the events of recent days have shown, the organizers of the disturbances, blinded

by their own reckless plans, are not in the least concerned for the genuine interests and aspirations of the peoples.

The antirestructuring forces are trying to exploit the difficult processes under way in the country to further their own ambitions. They attempt to palm off their own selfish plans as representing the will and opinion of the people. This is confirmed by the numerous letters from working people arriving in Moscow from different corners of the country.

"The discord in Armenia and Azerbaijan has been sown by evil people," writes V. Kuleshin, a machine operator from Stavropol Kray's Shpakovskiy Rayon. "Who are they? Are their names known? I think that the administrative organs should provide an exhaustive answer to these questions. There is no need to create an artificial, concocted 'image of the enemy.' He has a real face."

Yes, time will put everything in its rightful place and some people will have to answer to the people for their actions.

Along with the independent creative movements and organizations generated by perestroika which are sincerely concerned with questions of renewal, extremist, nationalist forces bent on fomenting national discord, provoking extreme conditions, and escalating violence, uncertainty, and fear have been formed and are actively operating.

The representatives of the extremist wing of the Azerbaijan People's Front have had quite a lot of success in their foul work. But scarcely even they could have foreseen, when planning the current events, the catastrophic consequences of their calls for national isolationism, resistance to the center, and civil disobedience.

The events show that the negative processes in Baku and the republic have really overwhelmed the city and gotten out of the leaders' control. Hence the pogroms, murders, numerous acts of vandalism, reprisals against the civilian population of the other nationality, and attacks on military units and the forces of law and order. It is the criminal actions of the extremists, putting the life and security of the local population on the line, which are the reason for the introduction of the state of emergency.

The correctness of this judgment is indirectly acknowledged by the People's Front leaders. The following lines, in particular, are found in a statement issued on 18 January: "The Azerbaijan People's Front Board angrily condemns the crimes perpetrated.... Preliminary analysis of the facts shows that the crimes were provoked by certain people who quickly disappeared from the scene of the crime. This makes one think about their preparation. What forces are hiding behind them, and who is the organizer?"

The investigative organs still have to determine who the organizer is. But here is a noteworthy fact: On 22 January, at the very time when the People's Front was concerned with normalizing the situation, N. Panakhov,

a member of the Azerbaijan People's Front Board and an activist of the so-called National Defense Committee, was telling a rally held in Baku's Kirov Park that the People's Front was ready to act illegally.

The people who provoked the tragic events and who are setting the peoples against each other are blatant enemies of perestroika. They are trying with all their might to slow down the democratic processes and return the country to the pre-perestroika times of stagnation. That is why the following demand is increasingly being heard: Laws are needed that guarantee the irreversibility of the processes of perestroika and the inevitability of severe punishment for those who stand in their way.

Moscow Radio Coverage of Transcaucasus Events

Talks Begin in Riga

LD0202105590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] As we have just been informed by radio correspondent (Ninel Meshkun) from Riga, a consultative meeting began here yesterday between representatives of the Baltic Council, which unites the Peoples Fronts of Latvia and Estonia and the Lithuanian movement for perestroika, Sajudis, and the peoples movements of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

The message from the Baltic Council to the Armenian Pan-National Movement and to the Peoples Front of Azerbaijan says that the way out of any conflict can be found only at the conference table and, therefore, the Baltic Council offers its mediation in political consultations between plenipotentiary representatives of the peoples movements of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Both the conflicting sides agreed, on neutral ground, to inform the Baltic Council and to hold political consultations on the problems of the introduction of troops into the republics, on the position of refugees, and the exchange of hostages, not touching on the territorial quarrel about Nagorno-Karabakh.

Yesterday began with a closed session of the Baltic Council without guests or press which, however, immediately received exhaustive information at a press conference. This meeting is the first attempt by the peoples movements of the republics at the conference table to influence the processes taking place and, if goodwill exists, to promote their stabilization.

In the evening, the members of the peoples movements of the Baltic region had a meeting with the Azerbaijan delegation. This morning there will be a meeting with the leaders of the Armenian Pan-National Movement. Once again, journalists will not be present at these discussions, possibly so as not to hinder their confidentiality.

Border Stabilizing

LD0102115890 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Presented by Aleksandr Tikhonov]

[Text] Our correspondent Sergey Omelchenko has asked (Nikolay Borisovich Nizentsev), a representative of the Operational Information Group which has just been set up with the USSR KGB Border troops, to speak about the situation on the Soviet-Iranian border:

[Omelchenko] (Nikolay Borisovich), how would you assess the situation on the border today?

[(Nizentsev)] The situation is stabilizing and the border on the Azerbaijani sector has been brought completely under control. We are taking measures to ensure official passage through the fixed border points. Today 211 persons have been officially allowed through the state border, including 93 to the USSR and 118 Iranian citizens from the Soviet Union.

[Omelchenko] But are there still instances of border violations?

[(Nizentsev)] Attempts are being made. Over the past 24 hours 209 people have been detained—of these 60 from Iran, and 149 from the USSR to Iran.

[Omelchenko] And what were they carrying, taking with them?

[(Nizentsev)] Whatever they could, whatever is in short supply in the USSR they are taking out of the country.

[Omelchenko] I have heard from the Azerbaijanis that those who are coming in from the Iranian side are buying up everything that's in the shops.

[(Nizentsev)] Yes, our shops have been left with virtually empty shelves. They've bought up everything they could.

[Omelchenko] And this is causing dissatisfaction among the local inhabitants and is having a sobering effect on them. They realise that a border is a border, after all.

[(Nizentsev)] Yes, of course.

[Omelchenko] (Nikolay Borisovich), there have been rumors and talk that weapons are being brought across the border. Have any cases like that been registered?

[(Nizentsev)] No, there haven't in the past 24 hours.

[Omelchenko] Well, what are the border troops doing now to ensure that the normalization of the situation on the border is final?

[(Nizentsev)] The political workers and the commanders of the border troops are working every day in the populated border areas, and our relations with the local population over protecting the border have always been good, and we have their understanding. At a meeting of the party aktiv which was held in Lenkoran the actions of

the border troops in helping to improve the situation were approved. Measures are being taken by the local party bodies to interpret recent events.

[Omelchenko] How is the People's Front of Azerbaijan influencing the situation on the border at present, for example?

[(Nizentsev)] In principle, they have their own interests to look after; these ordinary people of Azerbaijan are sick and tired of all this, and all they want is for law and order and justice to be restored, and be left to work quietly and bring up and educate their children.

[Omelchenko] So the demands of the People's Front of Azerbaijan are meeting with less support on the part of the population now?

[(Nizentsev)] Well, if you look at it territorially, in the areas where the People's Front headquarters is situated close by, there, of course, their positions are stronger. But in the remote border settlements, for example in the mountains, in the Lenkoran sector, they are not accepted in the same way. But, basically, the People's Front has been operating like this—they have been solving many problems by force, and we are convinced of this by how many people were compelled to go out on to the streets, to the border, and to break down the border installations. Not everybody, you know, went out of their own free will. The border troops are taking all effective measures to normalize the situation on the state border, and, of course, with the help of the local population, all these questions will be solved.

'Normalization Process' Slow

LD0102132190

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0608 GMT on 1 February carries a 7-minute dispatch from correspondent Leonid Lazarevich in Baku. Lazarevich says that the normalization process in Baku is moving, albeit slowly, with more people going to work. According to the State Statistics Committee report the city's industry is producing only just over half the output it should be according to the plan. Damage sustained during the strikes from 18-29 January amounted to R250 million. Unfortunately, there are still instances, albeit rare ones, of attacks on troops. Representatives of the local military command are holding meetings with the public. Lazarevich says he attended a meeting of the city's military's commandant, Lieutenant General Dubinyak, with representatives of the War, Labor and Armed Forces Veterans' Council.

(Mustafa Zafarovich Nasirov), the council's chairman, says in an interview that the purpose of the meeting was to ease the state of emergency and ensure the freer movement of transport. However, there have been instances of coarse behavior, for example one academician, (Mustafayev), was forced to stand up against a wall with his hands up and be searched. The army is not being accused of such behavior, though. (Nasirov) says he is

convinced that most people in the city are capable of stabilizing the situation. But there will be no real improvement until Azerbaijan's sovereignty over the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast becomes a reality.

Armenian Enterprises Work at Night

LD0102221190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1900 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Many enterprises in Armenia are going over to working at night. This is a result of the blockade of transport routes. Since the start of the blockade about 19,000 freight cars with vitally necessary products have failed to arrive in the republic. Major energy-consuming enterprises have come to an almost complete halt. Tens of thousands of workers are taking their leave entitlements in order at least in some way to make up the family budget. Temporary unemployment is having a noticeable effect on the occurrence of hotbeds of tension in Yerevan where one-third of the republic's population lives.

Azeri Minister Notes Casualties

LD0202103590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0512 GMT 2 Feb 90

[From "Panorama" program, with unidentified announcer]

[Text] We now have Baku on the line. Everyone, naturally, is worried by the situation in Azerbaijan, and in the capital of the republic. We have already reported today that the situation is becoming more stable, but that nevertheless it remains complex. We go over to Leonid Lazarevich for the details:

"Panorama" is continuing its daily work in Baku, with the object of helping promote a normalization of the situation in the city. This process is taking place, but it is taking place in a complex manner. Those working on it are coming up against opposition. This opposition is not now as active, and it lacks heat, but the opposition does exist.

A day of remembrance for those who died during the tragic events took place yesterday, with the complete understanding of the military authorities in a city where mass meetings and street processions are forbidden. Thousands of people gathered in Nagornyy Park, where the burials took place. The leaders of the republic laid flowers at the graves.

Many rumors are being spread in the city, where more and more people are returning every day to the workplaces they abandoned on 18 January. Once again we are talking about rumors. These include rumors about many hundreds having died. It is a matter of great regret that these rumors were reflected in the address of the republic's Supreme Soviet. This obliged us to interview Talyat Aliyevich Kasumov, Azerbaijan's minister of health.

[Begin recording] [Kasumov] When we learned about the introduction of troops, the first aid units began receiving information about people injured and people who had died. All chief doctors were immediately mobilized. All of them were at their posts within a very short period and immediately began to receive the injured and to give them assistance. The situation was an emergency one and we were unable to be fully prepared for it. By today's date, 697 people have come to us for assistance. Of these, 382 have been receiving in-patient treatment with us. The number of those who died stands at 114 people. I give this figure, which is recorded only at our own medical establishments. There are three children and five women among those who died.

[Correspondent] The figures do not include the servicemen who died during these tragic events. They were taken to military hospitals. Given such a large number of injured, how well did your treatment facilities cope?

[Kasumov] They worked night and day, around the clock, without going home, without leaving the patients, without leaving the operating table. This speaks of a feeling of professional responsibility and of fulfillment of civic duty at a high level on the part of our doctors, our mid-level medical staff and the students of the Medical Institute. On the first day we had great difficulties in giving assistance on the injured, and particularly in bringing in the injured. I simply cannot understand cases in which ambulances were fired on. Aleksandr Vitaliyevich Makhevko, a doctor from the first aid station of the Azizbekovskiy Rayon in the city of Baku, who was travelling along a street to give assistance to an injured person, died while carrying out his duties. There were other instances of shooting. There was mass firing at the children's neurological hospital, the (Kadogly) hospital, and the republican hospital.

[Correspondent] I have been told by the military that these sad events took place because snipers were operating from the roofs of these treatment establishments.

[Kasumov] I can neither confirm nor deny this. It is not within my competence. But in any event, no matter what the case, no matter what the situation, I can in no way justify firing upon hospitals. We didn't even have enough blood. We weren't prepared for that kind of situation. The flow of people was enormous; an enormous flow of people, literally, was coming to give blood. There was a telephone call from Comrade Igor Nikolayevich Denisov, first deputy minister of health of the USSR, who asked about the situation. It has to be noted that everything I named—bandages, syringes, relaxants, heparin—everything was dispatched by the USSR Health Ministry in two consignments. The second consignment we received in full, but the things that were sent on the 21st of the month—that is to say the first assistance sent to us by the USSR Health Ministry, which was dispatched by transport aircraft—we are still unable to receive to this day.

[Correspondent] The load included syringes and bandages. What is the situation in the hospitals now? How many people are there?

[Kasumov] There are 233 people receiving in-patient treatment. Of these, 99 are in a serious condition. As a doctor I have to say that each day is working in our favor, that is to say, it is increasing the likelihood that these people will survive. However, there are some who are in an extremely serious condition, and I cannot guarantee that they will survive. [end recording]

Azerbaijan Scene Described

LD0102172790 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1430 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The situation in Azerbaijan: This morning TASS correspondents visited Baku railway station. The agitation observed here 2 weeks ago has abated. [passage omitted]

On a corner of Nizami Street rather resembling Moscow's Old Arbat stand two armored carriers. The soldiers are quite relaxed, which was a rare thing in the first few days after the declaration of the emergency, and a group of Baku people are talking to them. You can see quite a few such scenes here. People are trying to make out what has happened, frank discussions are taking place. They use these talks in the streets for this.

The need to help people live through the January events, to give them confidence in the future and get the republic out of the crisis and return to a normal calm life and labor, was mentioned at meetings at the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers. Taking part were members of the Council of Elders, scientific and cultural figures, heads of creative unions and public organizations, workers delegated by collectives of Baku enterprises. Ayaz Mutalibov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, and Gasan Gasanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic, spoke to those present. The new leaders of the republic see ways of overcoming the crisis primarily in practical embodiment of the principle of economic autonomy of Azerbaijan. In assessing the sociopolitical situation that has shaped up in the region, it was noted that it is closely linked with what happened in Nagorno-Karabakh and around it. Stress was laid on the need to conduct a frank, broad dialogue with all healthy movements of society. Nakhichevan: The situation in Nakhichevan ASSR [Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic] is calm. Studies have begun in educational establishments, production lines have been started up at major industrial enterprises, the glass containers plant, the mineral waters, carpet and knitwear associations. Rural workes are engaged in preparations for the spring. Traffic has started on the railway. In the autonomous republic in the past 3 days 20 persons have joined the CPSU ranks and applications to primary party organizations for reception into the party have come from tens of young people.

(Dzhalilov) first secretary of Nakhichevan party Oblast committee, told a AZERINFORM correspondent.

Yesterday at an expanded session of the party oblast committee bureau there was discussion of the socio-political situation in the autonomous republic. It was noted that aggravation of the situation was also promoted by the position of a number of leaders of primary party organizations, rayon committees of the party and also party and local soviet bodies of the autonomous republic who, in the complex conditions, were unable to influence the people's mood and demonstrated political immaturity. The bureau ratified a plan of measures for stabilizing the situation in Nakhichevan ASSR. An active part in implementing it is now being taken by the party aktiv and local residents.

Gyandzha: Tension is falling in the town, life is entering its normal course, and the measures being taken by party, local soviet and economic bodies are yielding results. The normal work of the overwhelming majority of enterprises of industry, transport, and the services sphere is being resumed. At the machine-building works today the first of 60 carpet looms ordered by the local Guseynov carpet combine was manufactured. The many-thousands-strong alumina combine collective has started work, where unfortunately there is an acute shortage of a number of chemical components which should be supplied by suppliers from Astrakhan and Sumgait, but the wagons containing the semi-finished products have not arrived on time in Gyandzha, owing to the complex situation on the railway. Light industry enterprises are working producing textiles, carpets and sewn goods. In the local shops there are more various kinds of bread, rolls and cakes, dairy products which are regularly being supplied by the town's food industry enterprises. Urban transport is working. Flights of aircraft to Nakhichevan have started, but hundreds of workers of the instrument works are not yet going to work.

Sumgait: Output is still not being produced by major production associations, Orgsintez, Khimprom, Sumgaitbytkhim, Sintezkauchuk, and other major enterprises of the town. At the aluminium works only the electrolysis plants are working: They did not stop working for a minute owing to the continuity of the technological regime. The situation in the town continues calm. At many enterprises today there were workers' meetings, with explanations being made to the people of the need to start work. Schools, medical institutions, shopping facilities, the heat and power station, and transport are working.

Barda: Land improvement workers, power engineers, light industry workers of the rayon have returned to their work places. [passage omitted] The road haulage bases of the rayon have moved to the express work mode. Taking into consideration the tightness on the railway it has been decided to transport most of the freight and ready production by motor vehicle.

Moscow TV Continues Reportage of Events

Armenian, Azeri Talks

LD0102171590 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[From "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] We have just been speaking by telephone with (Ninel Kasyanova), our correspondent in Riga, where the leaders of informal Armenian and Azerbaijani groups began talks today under the mediation of the Baltic Council. The first session has to be a closed one. Then the Baltic Council will hold discussions with each of the sides. The leaders of the informal movements of Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed to discuss: The issue of bringing the Army into the republics, the refugees problem, and the exchange of hostages; but will not touch upon territorial disputes in connection with Nagorno Karabakh. That was information from Ninel Kasyanova in Riga.

Improved Baku Situation

LD0102194290 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Correspondent's despatch from Baku; from "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Baku, 1 February. It is not by chance that we started our reports from this city on the streets of Baku. Nor is this one any exception. This is what the town's streets are like today, the first sign of the fact that life in Azerbaijan's capital is returning to normal. There are inevitably lines at the Soyuzpechat newspaper kiosks in the mornings. The latest issues of the newspapers literally grab people's attention. What is new in the city? What is new in the republic's rayons? These things do indeed concern every resident of Baku.

Many industrial enterprises and nearly all of the shops were working on the first day of February. Everything that is most necessary is to be found on their counters, although not so much as there used to be. Yesterday and today a heavy load fell on the staff of the savings banks. True, large sums are not yet being paid out in cash—the money is not there yet. But the most urgent human needs can be considered as being ensured. [video shows urban street scenes, traffic moving freely, passers-by walking along the streets, people lining up for newspapers at kiosks, small shops open for business, savings bank branch]

In our 1 January despatches there were reports about people handing their party membership cards. Now we have some different information—people are joining the party. In the town of Nakhichevan alone 20 people were received into the CPSU over the past 3 days. This trend was confirmed today at a press conference for Soviet and foreign journalists who had come to Baku yesterday. There were many questions to the representatives of the republic's party and local soviet bodies. In particular

there was a discussion of the rightfulness of bringing in the troops and of the actions of the military subunits: The desire to sort out the reasons for the tragic events was there. And we, too, asked a question:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] You said today that the government of the republic found itself in a political crisis. In your view would it have been able to control the situation in the republic without troops?

[Unidentified speaker from platform] That is a hypothetical question. I have already said that all questions are now being analyzed and studied. But one thing I can say honestly: The situation was not being controlled. [end recording]

Questions, questions, and yet more questions. They were also put during the break in the news conference to the representative of the People's Front, for whom, unfortunately, no place was found on the platform. A pity, for dialogue aimed at creativity is necessary, how necessary it is this very day! [video shows journalists seated at a long table during a press conference, putting questions to a group of five unidentified officials in civilian clothes seated at the top table; further clip shows journalists clustering round a man who appears to be the representative of the People's Front]

TASS Updates Transcaucasus Developments

Talks in Riga Continue

LD0202114190 Moscow TASS in English 1121 GMT
2 Feb 90

[Text] Riga February 2 TASS—By TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina:

Attempts by representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia to settle the inter-ethnic conflict in Transcaucasia with the mediation of the Baltic Council will continue here today.

The Baltic council comprises the Popular Fronts of Latvia and Estonia and the Lithuanian Sajudis.

Baltic Council members met the delegates from the Azerbaijan Popular Front (APF) on Thursday. They tentatively discussed an agenda for the meeting. A delegation from the Armenian national Movement (ANM) is expected to arrive today.

Participants in the consultations agreed in advance to discuss the decision to send troops to Transcaucasia, the problem of refugees, and the hostage exchange issue. They will not touch upon the territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Dainis Ivans, chairman of the Latvian Popular Front (LPF), said at a news conference here on Thursday [1 february] that the organisers of the meeting did not know whether the two Transcaucasian sides would agree to

direct talks. As a result, provisions were made at first to have separate consultations with each delegation.

The LPF spokesman specially emphasised that they are engaged in consultations and that the Armenian side objects to the word "negotiations", since "it is not yet disposed" towards negotiations.

Hikmet Gaji-Zade [name as received], a physicist, and Sabit Bagirov, [name as received] a mathematician, who are members of the APF board, addressed journalists late Thursday night, expressing deep gratitude to the Baltic Council for its initiative.

They believe that the setting up of a similar Transcaucasian council could expedite democratic transformations not only in the southern republics but also throughout the Soviet Union.

Asked why the possibility of such a meeting was passed up several months ago when the Leningrad people's front acted as a mediator and an Armenian delegation visited the city, the Azerbaijani guests said that the situation was stable at that time and that it was not necessary for them to go there.

Touching upon the causes of the tragic events in Azerbaijan, the APF spokesmen pointed out that the tense situation was accounted for by the presence of 200,000 Azerbaijani refugees who had fled Armenia.

It took very little to exhaust the patience of these people who had been deprived of their homes and jobs, the APF spokesmen believe.

According to Hikmet Gaji-Zade, the religious difference between the two peoples (Azerbaijanis are Moslems and Armenians are Christians) did not influence the situation in any way.

"The talk about an Islamic factor or Iranian revolution was a journalistic invention," he said.

The APF representatives believe that the idea of setting up the APF National Defence Committee also added fuel to the fire, since it "created the impression that the republic was arming itself."

"The Popular Front stood great chances to win a majority of seats in parliament. Therefore forcible methods were not necessary," Bagirov said.

Death Toll Set at 139

LD0102141390 Moscow TASS in English 1057 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—By TASS special correspondents:

The situation in Baku is gradually returning to normal. City transport is functioning, while shops, public catering outlets and schools have re-opened. Several major industrial enterprises are operating. According to

the Azerbaijani Committee for State Statistics, losses from strikes since January 18, 1990, amounted to some 250 million roubles.

Ways leading out of crisis were discussed at meetings of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist Party and the Council of Ministers in the past few days. Speakers stressed the need to practically implement the economic independence of the republic, to hold a broad dialogue with all healthy forces.

Analysing the tragic events in the Azerbaijani capital which prompted the imposition of the state of emergency, the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper writes today that the "Baku explosion" was set off by the problems of 200,000 Azerbaijanis and Meskhetian Turks who were left homeless and shared the fate of another 300,000 unemployed locals. Only a fifth of the refugees could find work. Tension always arises at opposing social poles, the newspaper notes. There are always people who take advantage of it to incite national, religious and any other enmity.

The death toll in the Azerbaijani capital since the imposition of the state of emergency has now reached 139 people, according to the Health Ministry. They include 106 civilians, eight Interior Ministry servicemen, 20 Soviet Army soldiers and five militiamen. A total of 498 people were wounded.

A Soviet Army spokesman told the IZVESTIYA newspaper that a group of Popular Front members, which effectively controlled the state communications system in the republic, was detained at the Azerbaijani Communications Ministry. They had tapped telephone conversations, including those of the army.

A strike continues in Nagorno-Karabakh in protest against the presence in the republic of a high-ranking Azerbaijani delegation. But the situation is relatively calm. Motorways are being unblocked. Permanent railway traffic has been restored between Agdam in Azerbaijan and Stepanakert. Goods trains with food and fuel are arriving in the Autonomous Republic.

Smuggling attempts are continuing on the Soviet-Iranian border in Azerbaijan. In the past 24 hours 209 people were detained for attempts to illegally cross the border. A meeting of Soviet and Iranian border commissars took place at one of the sections and an agreement was reached on exchanging those who illegally cross the border.

It was stressed at a meeting of the Republican Council for emergencies, that life in Armenia, particularly, in areas bordering with Azerbaijan, was gradually returning to normal. At the same time, TASS Learned at the Azerbaijani People's control committee, that all the efforts to lift blockade of the railway have not yet produced tangible results. More than one million tonnes of cargo had not been received by January 31. As a result many industrial enterprises stand idle in the republic, and a large number of finished goods sit at warehouses.

Talks between the Azerbaijani Popular Front and the Armenian national Movement are expected to start in the Latvian capital today. According to IZVESTIYA, the Baltic council, comprising leaders of the Sajudis Lithuanian movement, the Popular Fronts of Latvia and Estonia, condemned the use of military force in the Transcaucasian conflict and offered to mediate.

Calm Returns to Azerbaijan

LD0102161590 Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Baku February 1 TASS—By AZERINFORM and TASS correspondents:

Surrounded by the calm of Baku's railway station, the frenzied exodus two weeks ago seems hard to believe.

Two armoured carriers are parked at the corner of Nizami Street, a pedestrian-only zone reminiscent of Moscow's arbat. A group of Baku residents are talking peacefully with troops, a rare sight during the first days after the state of emergency was declared.

People are trying to understand what has happened. Their discussions, including street meetings, are quite frank.

At meetings with representatives of the public and work collectives at the Azerbaijani Communist Party's Central Committee and the Council of Ministers, speakers stressed the need to help people ride through the January developments and become confident about tomorrow, to lead the republic out of the crisis and return to a normal, tranquil life and work.

The meetings were addressed by Azerbaijani Communist Party chief Ayaz Muttalibov and Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov.

The republic's new leaders believe that it is possible to find a way out of the crisis by implementing Azerbaijan's economic independence.

In assessing the current socio-political situation, speakers outside the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Republic. They stressed the need to conduct a frank, broad dialogue with all sound movements in society.

The situation in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic is calm. Classes have been resumed at educational establishments. Major industrial enterprises are operating. Farmers are preparing for spring work. Railway traffic has resumed operation.

The situation in Sumgait is calm. At meetings held at many enterprises today, people were persuaded to resume work. Schools, medical institutions, shops and transport facilities are operating.

Latest MVD Data Noted

*LD0102151790 Moscow TASS International Service
in Russian 1310 GMT 1 Feb 90*

[“On Situation in Azerbaijan and Armenia. (Includes Latest USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Data)”—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 1 Feb (TASS)—The situation in Azerbaijan is stabilizing and is under the control of forces of law and order and military subunits. As reported today for a TASS correspondent at the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry, measures are being taken in the Republic to overcome the consequences of the disturbances. The majority of enterprises in Baku have begun work. However, at many enterprises in Sumgait, Gyandzha, and also a number of rayon centers, the strike is still continuing. Ninety-six persons have been detained in the last 24 hours in the Republic for violating the curfew.

On the Azerbaijani Railway 135 freight trains are idling, and of them, 106 are intended for Armenia.

An appeal by the Baku city committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party and the executive committee of the city soviet was broadcast on Republican Television on Wednesday, calling for cohesion and strengthening of international traditions. There was condemnation of the provocative attempt by individual activists of the Azerbaijan Popular Front to incite interethnic disagreements and rumors about the oppression of the Russian-language-speaking population were categorically repudiated.

In the Khanlarskiy rayon internal affairs department, more than 30 warheads from antitank rocket launchers and 41 warheads from hail control gun missiles, and other weaponry that had been stolen earlier, have been handed in.

Three members of the “National Defense Committee” of the Azerbaijan Popular Front have been detained on suspicion of murder in Divichinskiy rayon. The rayon’s prosecutor’s office has instigated criminal proceedings.

The situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast remains tense. In the last 24 hours trains have not been arriving at Stepanakert station. In the town of Stepanakert, in Martuninskiy rayon, enterprises with a 24-hour production cycle were working while public transport worked partially. Industrial enterprises in Askerskiy and Gadrutskiy rayons worked normally. Twenty-nine people were detained for violating the curfew.

The situation in Armenia over the last 24 hours has not changed substantially. The voluntary handing in of weapons that were stolen earlier is continuing.

Yerevan Radio Reviews Events in, Around Armenia**MVD on ‘Resolute Measures’**

*NC0102185290 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian
1700 GMT 1 Feb 90*

[Text] The party, soviet, and law enforcement bodies of the republic are taking concrete measures to stabilize the situation in the regions bordering the Azerbaijan republic. After the (?arrival) of the Soviet Army and internal troop units here, life is gradually getting back to normal. The return of the fighters from the border regions is continuing. The militia workers, army, and internal forces troops have assumed all the responsibility of protecting the peaceful population against the provocative attacks of the raiders. As is known, they are succeeding in this, though sometimes with great difficulty. Thus, on the morning of 1 February, a Soviet Army detachment came under automatic fire near the Chayzam guardpost in Gorisskiy rayon. Army serviceman [name indistinct] was wounded. The shots came from (?Seydar) village in the Azerbaijan republic.

The Armenian republic’s Internal Affairs Ministry has stated that the most resolute measures will be taken, with the assistance of the Soviet internal troops and by resorting to special operations and, where necessary, to the use of arms against those who encroach on the dignity, health, and security of the citizens, and who, by their [word indistinct] acts, try to destabilize the situation in the republic.

Border Tension Continues

*NC0202114390 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian
1000 GMT 2 Jan 90 90*

[Text] Despite the introduction of a state of emergency and the negotiations under way between the Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives from the border regions on stabilizing the situation, the fighters of the Azerbaijan People’s Front are keeping the situation tense.

Our colleague Levon Markaryan reported from Goris that yesterday morning the Azerbaijanis opened fire with automatic weapons and wounded a Soviet Army soldier, Private Aleksandr Stalbovskiy, on Ghapan-Goris road near the Agbulak settlement. He was taken to the regional hospital in Goris where he received urgent medical treatment and underwent a successful operation. Robert Aleksanyan, first secretary of Gorisskiy rayon party committee (raykom), visited the soldier after the operation. Stalbovskiy declared that he was shot at (?deliberately) by an enemy for whom the establishment of stability and order in the region does not [words indistinct]. This morning we again contacted the rayon party committee about the condition of the wounded man. They informed us that Private Aleksandr Stalbovskiy is doing well.

'Vremya' Report Denied

NC0102183190 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian
1715 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Report by Vrezh Sarukhanyan—recorded]

[Text] [Sarukhanyan] Yesterday, when the commentator of the "Vremya" program was talking about Azerbaijan, he added that rail tankers carrying fuel have arrived in Armenia via the Transcaucasian railway. Let us first explain that many people conceive of the Transcaucasian railway as encompassing the railways of the three republics. How could a person living in [name indistinct], Vladivostok, or Petrozavodsk understand that this term does not cover the Azerbaijan railway, when there are people near us who have been led astray? Let us explain that since 1965 the Azerbaijan railway has been separate from the Transcaucasian railway and is simply called the Azerbaijan railway. In short, such general terms create misunderstanding in many cases. Has the situation regarding the movement of trains changed today? Let us listen to Nikogayos Ter-Karapetyan, secretary of the Yerevan railway station party organization:

[Ter-Karapetyan] This not the first time and will not be the last. We have become accustomed to such lies, and we know what is untrue because we are working at the station and are in contact with the developments. Since 7 January, and up until today, we have received no train from Azerbaijan in Yerevan station and other stations of the republic. Therefore, there is no need to be angry at the "Vremya" program. Already, Armenian television no longer transmits that program in order not to shatter any further the already shattered nerves of the people [passage indistinct]. Here a question arises: Either the Azerbaijan People's Front is stronger and more powerful than this powerful superpower state, or the leadership of our country is not interested in ending the blockade. In fact, the leaders of our country and powerful state have a stake in the prevailing situation in Armenia.

[Sarukhanyan] Let us add that because of shortages of construction material and fuel the restoration and construction work has stopped in the disaster zone. Hundreds of people who came here from different parts of the country are returning home. The supply of construction materials, including cement, has completely ceased. Not expecting much, I phoned different sectors of the republic's railways to ascertain the situation. Vanik Maranchyan, dispatcher at the Idzhevan-Yerevan sector, told me that yesterday no one at the Kirovabad [Gendzhe]-Baku sector station replied to telephone inquiries and today they have said that they are inspecting the tracks. Are they concerned with the security and fate of our freight? How long that inspection will continue is known only to the leaders of the People's Front and to Moscow. Now the republic continues to receive freight only through the Georgian railway. In the last 2 days the following have been received: 327 tankers of fuel oil, 41 of petrol, 50 of diesel oil, 31 of aircraft fuel, 10 freight cars of timber, and 8 freight cars of coal.

Five Trains Enter Armenia

NC0202122690 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian
1700 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Following prolonged negotiations between the USSR Communications Ministry and officials at the Yerevan branch of the Transcaucasian railway on the one hand and the leadership of the Azerbaijan railways on the other, five trains had arrived through Idzhevan station on 1 February by 1100. There is no traffic along the main route which passes through Norashen station.

On 31 January, 15 trains with a total of 362 freight cars arrived in Armenia via the Transcaucasian railway. They were carrying 141 tanks of fuel oil, 39 tanks of benzine, 23 tanks of diesel oil, 3 cars of [words indistinct] prefabricated houses for the disaster zone, 41 cars of construction materials, 32 cars of cereals, 7 cars of flour [words indistinct].

Armenian Town Renamed

NC0202123190 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian
1700 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] In accordance with the 30 January decree of the Armenian Republic's Supreme Soviet Presidium, the town of Sovetashen town Ordzhonikidzevskiy Rayon has been renamed Nubarashen. The Sovetashen soviet of people's deputies has been renamed the Nubarashen soviet of people's deputies.

Baku Radio Carries Announcements of Events

Victims' Families To Receive Aid

NC0102215090 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri
1700 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The presidium of the republic committee for aid to Nagorno-Karabakh has held an extraordinary meeting. The participants of the convocation honored the memory of those who were killed during the tragic incidents. It was decided to allocate R500,000 to be given in the form of material aid to the families of those who were killed.

The presidium of the republic committee for aid to Nagorno-Karabakh urged the family members of those who have died to apply to the following address with the appropriate documents: 370010 Baku City, 28 April Street 4 [word indistinct].

The following telephone numbers can be used: 984524, 984041, 933936.

Leadership Honors Victims

LD0102165190 Baku Domestic Service in Russian
1500 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Nagorno Park, the highest point of the city, is covered with red carnations. Young and old went there today, where the victims of the tragic January events in Baku are buried, on the day of remembrance to honor

the memory of those killed and bow their heads at the graves. The bitterness of people's loss was (?intensified) by the realization of that fact that many of those killed had been young, and had only just entered into adult life. A commission of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party and of the republic's Supreme Soviet is to analyze the causes of what happened and to work out a political evaluation. The results of the commission's work will be made public.

Today Ayaz Mutaibov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee; Elmira Kafarova, chairperson of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic; Gasan Gasanov, chairman of the Republic's Council of Ministers; Ratib Zeynalov, Telman Orudzhev, Shamil Rasi-Zade, and Alekperov, members and candidate members of the Bureau of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee went to Nagorno Park to honor the memory of those killed. [passage omitted]

Situation in Gendzha Viewed

NC0102214590 *Baku Domestic Service in Azeri*
1700 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Our editorial office established a link with Gendzha today. Zeynab Guseynova, secretary of the Gendzha City Party Committee, gave some detailed information on the situation in the city. She said:

The party and soviet organs in the city are taking every opportunity to reduce tension and restore normal life. The members of the city party committee, the people's deputies, and the party activists are visiting the establishments and holding talks with the work collectives. They are learning about their demands and needs. The work in the establishments is being gradually regulated. The meat complexes, dairies, [word indistinct] factories, and bakeries are working without interruption. The production of the goods needed to supply the people is being put in order and the shops and collective farm markets are working at full capacity. Meanwhile, the situation in other industrial establishments is very complicated. The aluminum factory is not working at full capacity because of the shortage of [word indistinct]. The raw materials expected from the chemical production units in Sumgait are not being delivered. Tension continues to prevail on the tracks as well. Although the movement of passenger cars has been organized, the freight cars are not being dispatched on time. This is making the (?supply of materials to the city's industrial and social construction sites) difficult. On the other hand, the emigration of the Russian speaking population of the city has been completely halted. This has been achieved through the explanatory work carried out by the groups which were composed of [word indistinct], work veterans, and peoples deputies and of the commanders of the military units. The appeals made to the people by the city party and soviet organs and by the people's deputies in the establishment of stability in the city were of no small importance in this connection.

Kiev International on Refugees Arriving in Ukraine

LD0102151490 *Kiev in English to Europe*
1900 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Refugees still arrive from Transcaucasia to the Ukraine due to the continuing conflict in Azerbaijan and Armenia. About 4,000 resettlers have already been received in the Ukrainian cities and villages. The local bodies of power provide them with material aid, housing, and job placement.

Political & Social

Former Leningrad Chief Expelled for 'Immodesty'

LD0202110990 *Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT*
2 Feb 90

[Text] Leningrad February 2 TASS—By TASS Correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko:

The Leningrad regional party committee bureau expelled former Leningrad region party chief Yuriy Solovyev, 64, from the party for "displaying immodesty and violating norms of party ethics."

Since Solovyev is a member of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, the bureau ruled to submit this issue to the forthcoming Central Committee plenum.

The decision to expel Solovyev was taken after the bureau heard the results of an investigation by the party control commission at its emergency session on Thursday.

There had been reports that Solovyev bought a foreign-made car while presiding over the regional party organization from 1985 to 1989.

The bureau asked Leningrad's prosecutor to investigate whether other communists in charge of party, soviet and public organizations and economic agencies bought their cars in violation of the law.

Prank Bomb Threat at Kursk Power Plant Reported

LD0202092890

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0452 GMT on 2 February carries a 7-minute report by an unidentified announcer on the Kursk Nuclear Electric Power Station. The announcer opens by saying: "On the subject of unfounded rumors, the announcer of the morning 'Panorama' program mentioned a story circulating in the town of Budennovsk in Stavropol Kray that something terrible is going to happen in the first few days of April, that supposedly the town will even cease to exist." He says that this unfounded rumor is still current. The announcer then hands over to correspondent Nikolay Grebnev, speaking by telephone from Kursk, who says that the inhabitants of Kursk city and oblast, and of neighboring oblasts, were very alarmed by rumors of an impending explosion at the Kursk Nuclear Electric

Power Station. The rumor was begun by a telephone call stating that a bomb might have been placed in the reactor.

Vladimir Ivanovich Gusarov, a Kursk Nuclear Electric Power Station official, in an interview with the correspondent, says that when the call was received the Nuclear Electric Power Station staff informed management, and a thorough check was carried out: Nothing was found. In addition to the Nuclear Electric Power Station workers, firefighting units, the Militia, the special troops, and the Committee for State Security were involved. Nothing was found at the Nuclear Electric Power Station. Asked by the correspondent whether such a case could really happen, Gusarov said the Nuclear Electric Power Station staff respond to any call with the aim of doing everything to achieve safety, especially in view of the increased demands placed on such power stations. The correspondent concludes by stressing that nothing was wrong at the Nuclear Electric Power Station, and that it was a case of hooliganism, a telephone prank.

The correspondent then interviews the procurator of Kursk Oblast, Arkadiy Vasilyevich Roshchin, who clarifies the legal measures to be taken with regard to such pranks. He notes that criminals can receive from 2-7 years imprisonment in serious cases, and the procurator's Office is investigating the case.

Radiation Leak at Kalinin Nuclear Station

LD0202073590 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] This week the editorial office of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA has had an onslaught of telephone calls connected with rumors about an extraordinary occurrence at the Kalinin Nuclear Electric Power Station [AES].

We have just spoken with Kursk on the air, there were rumors of an explosion at the Kursk AES, and now Kalinin. (Sidorenko), deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Industrial Supervision, was approached for an explanation. He announced that a leak of radioactive water had in fact taken place on 5 January at the Kalinin AES. Due to a blunder by personnel, about 20 cubic meters flowed onto the roof of the machine department, and then got into a cooling-water duct. A special commission which was engaged in the investigation came to the conclusion that the surrounding territory was not subjected to radioactive pollution, and that the roof of the turbine hall was polluted. The people who eliminated the consequences of the accident received no more than 1.5 percent over the permissible norm. Cases of this kind are not rare at nuclear power stations, but the union-level commission which came to Kalinin this time was needed, because the local inhabitants do not trust the information coming from the AES's leaders very much.

People's alarm is explained by other material in today's issue of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA which reports that a register of people radiated after the Chernobyl catastrophe has been created.

House Levelled Due to Stolen Radioactive Source

PM0102144590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 28 Jan 90 First Edition p 4

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel V. Prokopyev, reserve, under rubric "Extraordinary Incident": "Caution: Radiation!"]

[Text] Minsk has recently been alarmed by rumors of extraordinary incidents. And not without grounds.

This happened on 2d Zemlemernaya Street: A private house had to be completely demolished and, together with the soil collected around it, taken outside the city to be buried in a special burial ground.

Some 30 years ago the owner of the house, then only a teenager, had found on a construction site a gamma-ray flaw detector which had been left unattended. It was used to check the strength of welded seams. At home he sawed it up. A powder spilled from a capsule—cesium-137. The boy then carried it all over the building and the adjacent private plot, receiving burns to his fingers....

The radioactive contamination of the area has been detected only now. Lieutenant Colonel V. Barabanov, chief of the Radiation and Chemical Protection Department of Minsk Civil Defense Staff and a participant in the elimination of the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Electric Power Station, inspected the house. In one spot the instrument recorded a level of 23,000 microroentgen! By decision of the city soviet executive committee, the house was immediately demolished and the plot of land decontaminated.

The local press has drawn attention to the fact that the leaders of certain industrial enterprises and construction organizations sometimes take a frivolous attitude to the expenditure of dangerously explosive substances and to materials containing radioactivity. They fail to take proper stock of them or to monitor their storage and destruction in the prescribed manner.

One Minsk resident found some fine-looking plastic sheets on a dump. At home he adapted them to his needs. Meanwhile, civil defense specialists had established that the plastic was radioactive. Too late: There was none at the dump. A search led to the luckless householder. The radiation pollution of his building amounted to more than 400 microroentgen per hour.

How are we to eliminate the elementary illiteracy of a section of the population in questions of radiation and chemical protection? Command-staff exercises, drills, and training sessions were held at the majority of industrial enterprises in Minsk recently. They showed that there are no grounds for complacency. City folk are

worried, in particular, about the capital's railroad junction, through which many trains pass with dangerously explosive and inflammable freight. How can this flow be made to bypass the city of almost 2 million inhabitants?

The population's special protection leaves something to be desired. Construction of protective structures is proceeding only slowly, and the existing ones are not always in a satisfactory state. All this suggests the sad thought that extraordinary incidents do not happen just of their own accord.

Estonian Front Aims To Rival Communists

PM0102171790 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Leonid Levitskiy reports from Tallinn under general rubric: "Direct Line. Own Correspondents at Teleprinter": "People's Front Election Platform"]

[Text] Elections to the republic Supreme Soviet are scheduled to take place 18 March in Estonia. An election conference organized by the People's Front was essentially a republic-wide rally—the radio carried a live relay lasting several hours. The movement's activists cited the Estonian Communist Party as the main rival in the struggle for power, for deputies' seats in the future Supreme Soviet.

This is the first time that the People's Front has set its aims and plans so clearly and openly against the action program of the Communist Party. The form in which it was done also had very little in common with an invitation to a parliamentary contest. There were calls for a boycott of members of the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau and Supreme Soviet Presidium. It was proposed to seek the institution of legal proceedings against a number of former party and state figures, a transfer of the party's assets to the state, and the elimination of the party's opportunities to exert influence on the mass media, radio, and television. There was also talk of denying former party members admission to the new movements and organizations.

The usual criticism of the apparatus and of conservative elements in the Communist Party turned into a rejection and exclusion of all who regard themselves as communists. However, not everyone went along with the calls for confrontation, assessing them as the beginning of a witch hunt, as a dangerous and harmful trend which runs counter to democracy and the ideas of the People's Front itself.

The election platform of the People's Front and the ways of implementing it were approved virtually unanimously. The objective is to achieve Estonia's state independence. According to one of the leaders of the People's Front, E. Savisaar, Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] minister of the economy, the Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow recognized Estonia's status as an annexed territory when it condemned the secret protocols to the Nonaggression Pact between Germany

and the Soviet Union. There is no need to wait for the creation of a legislative mechanism for the secession of republics from the Soviet Union. It is necessary to embark on negotiations on the restoration of the statehood of Estonia and of all the Baltic republics with the country's government without delay. The first step in this direction will be taken by deputies from Estonia, and, as Savisaar emphasized, Lithuania and Latvia, at the upcoming USSR Supreme Soviet session.

For about 2 hours the conference discussed problems of dividing up joint property and reciprocal economic claims of the union and the republic. Back in September of last year, the People's Front, the IME [Estonian self-management] Problem Council, and the Ministry of the Economy embarked on preparations for negotiations with Moscow. There is a commission which is compiling a "ledger" in which all the losses which Estonia has sustained since 1920, since the conclusion of the Tartu peace treaty, are to be entered, as speakers pointed out. In particular, the damage incurred as a result of annexation, World War II, emigration, deportations, the imposition of an alien economic system, destruction of the environment, and so forth. In the conference delegates' opinion, the compensation to be paid by the union will provide an adequate financial basis on which to build the republic's own economy.

The tasks of the future Estonian Supreme Soviet were also defined. It has been assigned the role of a provisional legislative organ. It will also form a provisional government. After the achievement of independence elections to the parliament of the independent state will be held. The conference approved the list of candidate deputies to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet. USSR People's Deputy M. Lauristin, one of the organizers of the People's Front, who recently resigned from the CPSU, has been named as a candidate for the post of chairman of the future Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Estonian USSR Deputy on Interrepublic Ties

90UN0794A Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA
in Russian 13 Jan 90 p 3

[V. Repetskiy report: "Meeting With USSR People's Deputies"]

[Text] By 1700 hours on Thursday, 11 January, thousands of people were thronging the Tallinn City Hall to meet with USSR people's deputies Ye. Kogan, N. Katushov, I. Lyzo, T. Punkevich and V. Yarovoy. Not for the ringing phrase but for the sake of truth I will say right away that the hall, which seats 5,000, was cramped: People were standing in the aisles and in the cloakroom also. This demonstrates yet again that there is no lessening of interest in the political transformations which are occurring in the country. I would like to emphasize particularly that the inventions concerning the unpopularity of the USSR people's deputies among the electorate, which are spread at times with a persistence worthy of a better application, are totally without foundation. The hundreds of questions concerning the most

varied aspects of the life of the country, the republic, the work force, and individual citizens put by the meeting participants to the people's deputies and the attention and interest with which the answers to these innumerable questions were received are eloquent testimony not only to the trust in those the people elected, but also to the faith in their powers and ability to come up with and achieve a solution to most serious problems in the highest organ of state power of the USSR.

In order to complete the general impression I would mention the democratic, restrained, and polite spirit of this meeting without the former super-emotional content and intolerance and, at times, elementary lack of breeding which (let's face it!) were encountered previously. The instruction in democracy and parliamentarism is proceeding not rapidly, but quite successfully. This crowded meeting testified to that.

The meeting consisted of three parts, as it were. First, a general report from the group of people's deputies on the work of the Second Congress of People's Deputies was delivered by V. Yarovoy. He gave detailed information on the discussion of the congress' agenda, on the discussion of the question of the Constitutional Oversight Committee and the position of deputies from the Estonian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], on the discussion of the Tbilisi events and on the main report.

Concerning events in the Lithuanian SSR, V. Yarovoy said:

"At the end of last week representatives of the OSTK [United Council of Labor Collectives] traveled to Lithuania. The day before we had received a telephone call from the provisional Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and had been asked to express our attitude toward the events taking place there. We sent a telegram to the CPSU Central Committee on behalf of the OSTK and sent a copy to the provisional Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, in which we communicated the fact that we did not support the split which the Lithuanian Communist Party, which had departed from the position of the CPSU Central Committee, had effected and expressed our support for the provisional Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, which had adhered to the positions of the CPSU.

"I had a chance to address the Lithuanian working people and I conveyed to them greetings from the workers and employees of our republic and the OSTK and wished them success in the struggle at the present difficult stage. Today I received a call from the provisional Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee. I mentioned our upcoming meeting, and it was requested that I convey to all of you gratitude for the support.

"The meeting held by the provisional Central Committee proceeded per the familiar scenario—'Sajudis' had at that same time organized its meeting next door, and many people were literally trying to persuade those on their way to the first meeting to change direction.

"Following the meeting, we met with the apparatus of Vilnius' Oktyabrskiy Rayon Party Committee and exchanged opinions on the their situation and ours and then met with the leadership of the provisional Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee.

"These meetings were held in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding."

V. Yarovoy went on to describe the joint measures which are being mapped out by the OSTK with representatives of the work force from other republics.

"I will speak frankly," V. Yarovoy said, "since those who today are failing to consider our interests have long been operating entirely openly, while we have been hoping for something or other and expecting that someone would come to our assistance. This, evidently, will not happen.

"We are therefore looking for ways and planning measures which will determine the formation of united councils of labor collectives in all the republics. Today there is such a council in Moldavia and Belorussia, and one will be formed in the Ukraine, in Latvia, in Lithuania and in other republics. After this, we will hold a joint congress of representatives of the OSTK, at which we will form the appropriate body and draw up a program and rules for our joint actions.

"In addition, it is a question of creating, in conjunction with comrades from Latvia and Lithuania, a committee for the defense of Soviet power in the Baltic and the unity of the CPSU.

"Agreement has also been reached on the formation of the common 'Soyuz' group of deputies from Moldavia to Estonia for the joint elaboration of documents and their adoption in the USSR Supreme Soviet."

Following V. Yarovoy's speech, it was question time. All the people's deputies who took part in the meeting provided answers in turn.

Lacking the practical opportunity to present all the questions and answers, we publish some which are, in our view, of the greatest public interest. We will not give the names of the deputies who answered this or that question since some of the questions were repeated, and sometimes two deputies gave an answer to one question. Nor is this important. The main thing, in our view, is to convey the atmosphere of the meeting and illustrate the issues of most interest to the electorate.

[Question] The speeches of some people's deputies who participate in the Intermovement are at times taken to be directed against the Estonian people. Why?

[Answer] Everyone interprets our speeches as he sees fit. We state with all due responsibility that we have never said anything offensive about the Estonian people.

[Question] Do people's deputies from Latvia and Lithuania and other deputies from Estonia support your group of deputies?

[Answer] They do, but not all. It was for this reason that it was decided to form the "Soyuz" group of deputies, we having been the initiators of its formation.

[Question] Is there a realistic possibility of forming a northeast autonomous area in the event Estonia secedes from the USSR?

[Answer] In the case in question we would, possibly, consider the fact that each nation has the right to self-determination.

[Question] How legitimate are the republic government's measures to increase prices for beer, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products?

[Answer] We raised this question in the USSR Supreme Soviet. We were told that there were no inquiries to be made of the republic in connection with the change in the price of beer since the raw material necessary for its production is cultivated here. As far as the price increases on alcoholic beverages and tobacco products are concerned, these are, as you know, a union monopoly, and for this reason the USSR Government will study the matter. After all, representatives of Uzbekistan are reasonably asking: "We grow cotton and supply it to Estonia, why should they sell it there at three times the price?"

[Question] The fact that the sale of weapons to Estonian inhabitants has been authorized in certain cases is causing people serious concern. Generally, are there not too many weapons in the population's hands throughout the union?

[Answer] This question was put to Comrade Primakov. He said that it was essential to enact as quickly as possible a decree or law most strictly regulating the population's possession of weapons.

[Question] As of 1 January servicemen's families have not been able to acquire furniture, refrigerators, television receivers—everything is allocated by the enterprise. What are we supposed to do?

[Answer] This is a distressing situation, which comes about in a period when everything is changing, everything is being reworked. We will do all within our power to ensure that this injustice is removed.

[Question] What is your attitude toward the slogan "Poor But Free"?

[Answer] We do not share this slogan. This is not the idea we should be fighting for. In order that there be in the republic enough of everything for everybody we need unity. But not the kind where all are adapted to one, but unity common to all mankind, whereby only highly productive intelligent labor is possible. This is the only thing which will enable the republic to be free and to live prosperously.

[Question] If a farmer just starting out turns for help to an enterprise manager on condition that the product which he cultivates be supplied to this enterprise, could he expect support?

[Answer] Yes. We have repeatedly helped farmers with both construction materials and metal and sold them used cars. So what we can do, we will.

[Question] What is the position of the OSTK and the Intermovement in the campaign for elections to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet?

[Answer] The OSTK, the Intermovement, the Council of War Veterans, Armed Forces and Soldier Internationalists and the Strike Committee have decided to participate most actively in the preparation and organization of the elections to the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet in order to try to win the maximum possible number of seats in the republic's parliament.

We are approaching this question from the standpoint that if the situation develops as it has so far in Lithuania (and there are all the preconditions for this with us), this would mean a split in the party and possible secession from the Soviet Union (it cannot, of course, be said unequivocally that this is how it will be, but processes are moving in a single direction), we will most likely have to be prepared right away both for our separate parliament, which would break away, and our own Estonian Communist Party Central Committee. We should not permit the blunder which has been made in Lithuania.

[Question] The newspaper NOORTE KHYAEL quoted a leader of the republic as saying that the speeches of Kogan and Yarovoy at the Second Congress were slander. What do you think of this?

[Answer] We speak only the truth, there is nothing anti-Soviet in our speeches. As far as the newspaper NOORTE KHYAEL itself is concerned, it is well known that it has repeatedly published material whose content does not, to put it mildly, correspond to reality, and one can only sympathize with the editor since he has working for him, for example, such "incorruptible" journalists as Tomas Liyv, who recently attempted to illegally carry English pounds sterling across the border. Such employees hardly do the paper credit.

[Question] Is it true that some leaders of various movements are getting jobs at other places of work in order to run for republic Supreme Soviet deputy?

[Answer] We have reliable information only about the fact that Tiit Made, whom we all respect and who recently became renowned yet again for having called the working class "a workhorse in the stable waiting for its time to go to work" in a newspaper, has fixed himself up and has been working since December as a deputy chief for economics in the "Eestitsemise" Production Association, which is in the city of Kunda. This is practically

100 km from Tallinn. Why, one wonders? Evidently to get himself elected from there to the republic Supreme Soviet.

[Question] Speaking on Radio Free Europe recently, Reyn Taagepera, professor at the University of California, called on Estonians not to vote in March for the illegal immigrants, that is, those who came to Estonia without the permission of the appropriate departments of the bourgeois republic. In other words, against all Russian-speaking candidates. How do you view this?

[Answer] The leaders who are adopting positions of self-isolation and separation of the republic from the Soviet Union often heed the advice and recommendations coming from abroad. We, however, regard Taagepera's speech as a provocative activity aimed at exacerbating the situation in the republic.

[Question] Tell us what your attitude would be if a sponger with his own rules moved into your home?

[Answer] The Russian-speaking people are not spongers here but workers and they live by what they themselves earn.

[Question] When did the idea of creating an autonomous region in the northeast of the republic first arise?

[Answer] This idea is now being attributed to the Inter-movement. In fact, the matter was broached for the first time at Bruno Saul's meeting with workers of Kohtla-Jarve. He was asked point-blank from the floor: "What do you want of us? If things go that far, we will demand autonomy." Now the Inter-movement has been forced to adopt this method. This is not an end in itself, it is a method of defending our civil rights.

[Question] Is the OSTK not about to set up its own bank?

[Answer] Such is the intention, the appropriate essential documents are being worked on currently.

[Question] Why do people's deputies Kogan and Yarovoy not apply to the law enforcement authorities for protection of their rights and persons against the constant insults and attacks from journalists and other persons?

[Answer] Indeed, much more bad than good is being written about these deputies. But we believe that the deputies are performing useful work, upholding the interests of their electorate. As far as publications are concerned, they do not nor can they insult either Kogan or Yarovoy. It is simply that such material in the press does neither the journalists nor the editors who are permitting the attacks on the people's deputies any credit.

As I have already said, there is no chance of publishing all the questions and answers heard at the meeting. In addition, a whole number of questions were not answered by the deputies inasmuch as they were the province of leaders of the republic. For this reason it was

unanimously decided to pass them on for examination to the Estonian Communist Party Central Committee, the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet and the republic Council of Ministers in order that the answers might be published in the mass media.

The meeting culminated in the adoption of documents.

Estonian Supreme Soviet Adopts Statement

LD0102131190 Tallin Domestic Service in Estonian
1800 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Summary from poor reception] a statement in respect of indivisibility of the Estonian territory, which has received support from quite a few Supreme Soviet deputies and which was mentioned, if not discussed, because of protests from the Russian side, at the latest Supreme Soviet session, was today adopted by the Presidium of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet. Its text will be published in the press.

Estonian Party Official on Future of Kohtla-Jarve

LD0102143190 Tallinn Domestic Service in Estonian
1800 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Now over to Kohtla-Jarve, to where the republican leadership has apparently at last found the path.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The USSR people's deputies Kogan, Yarovoy, Lozo, and others who were recently on tour to northeast Estonia expressed an opinion that here, in East Virumaa [freshly adopted name for Kohtla-Jarve Rayon, goes back to pre-WWII times], a Soviet republic will be organized. Mikk Titma, secretary of the Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee, you have now had several meetings here in Kohtla-Jarve and there were very many questions [asked] in this connection. What do you think? What is your stance on this? How would you comment?

[Titma] Well, first of all one has to note that compared with the idea of the autonomous oblast, an autonomous union republic is clearly an advance. The cause for this is also clear to me. The thing is that information has evidently been obtained from Moscow that it would indeed be impossible to set up an autonomous oblast as it would mean legalizing a colonization of Estonia under the conditions of Soviet power. The central power will on no account go for that. Now the idea of the Soviet republic, it is then visualized that if and when Estonian people should decide in favor of a Republic of Estonia, then in the case Estonia would be as if split in half and here a Soviet republic would be set up.

This is a known step from international practice, like it was in Germany, Korea, Vietnam, so a precedent exists. Now, in order to do this in Estonia, there should clearly be an outside force of a kind, for support and via whom this is to be implemented like in all those other cases where each country was split in half. In the given conditions I do not see the central power being the force

to back it up. However, this idea indeed will now produce another outcome, and frankly speaking, this is what it is aimed at. That is indeed to create a nationality split in Estonia and to direct the non-Estonian population firmly toward the idea that realistic possibilities exist to oppose themselves to the Estonians on the state level. This idea in itself is a dangerous idea. Because—without beating about the bush—a sense of danger is felt not only by the Estonians but also by the members of the Russian community in Estonia. This is indeed aimed at this sense of danger in the way of one solution variant. [as heard]

[Correspondent] There were questions pouring in, of course, and many diverse questions. What [other] subject would you also highlight from the mass of questions which seemed of particular import and essence to the inhabitants of this area?

[Titma] Without doubt the most important is still this way of looking at the ethnic issue: Estonians and then the Russian community. And the many-faceted nature of this issue—be it within the party or then, say, the question of Estonia's independence, or the question of the security of the Russian community—this in one or another way was present in the questions. People are concerned over this. This is natural. Evidently it is crucial for all the political forces of Estonia at present to take into account this actual splitting into different interests, this being objective. Consequently, alongside the program of Estonia becoming independent as a state, one will have to also offer a very clear and secure future for the non-Estonians in Estonia. Be it if they decide to try to become citizens of Estonia or they decide to carry on living in Estonia whilst being for example, Russian citizens, or they decide—a third possible version—that they are guaranteed by the state an opportunity to return to Russia, the Ukraine, or Belorussia. All these three options must be resolved at the state level so that individuals will feel that their interests as human beings and their human rights are protected, and so that they will feel secure. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Party Secretary Interviewed on Latvia

LD0202102590

[Editorial Report] Riga Domestic Service in Latvian at 1400 GMT on 1 February carries an 18-minute interview with Ivars Kezbers, Latvian Communist Party (LCP) Central Committee secretary, to journalist Peteris Tabuns. The interview was recorded in Kezbers' office in the LCP Central Committee buildings in Riga.

Tabuns begins by asking Kezbers about the situation in the republic.

Kezbers responds: "The situation in the republic becomes ever more acute, both economically and politically. This must be taken into account by every person who cares about the fate of our republic.

"These days we are experiencing turbulence—kind of threats, it could be said—by not receiving from Moscow the planned mixed feed. It has been reduced by approximately a third. This, of course, is not yet the final figure. Very serious talks have yet to take place about this; we want to continue this serious matter at the level of partners in talks. The market is unbalanced—what is threatening is that unemployment and breaks in the power supply could arise.

"I would like to say this: The situation at present is very serious, only to, well, ideologize and politicize the situation in the republic. The shaping of concrete economic stability must be thought through; it must consider everybody and not divide everything into rural areas and towns, or, let us say, into power suppliers and shops—it must think in an integrated manner."

Tabuns suggests that at times economic questions cannot be tackled because of the tension in politics Kezbers continues: "Yes, unfortunately, that is how it is, but I think that every serious politician, especially at present during the pre-election situation, must be aware that economy, after all, is what could lead us out on the big road, if we are able to crawl out at all. That is what is most important.

"On the situation at present in the party, I would like to say the following:

"Intensive efforts are taking place how to realize the independence of the LCP. I support these efforts. They are diverse. Actually the discussion concerns the level of independence of the LCP.

"What in these discussions appears to me to be conjuncture?

"Firstly, it appears to me that this cannot be decided by individual bills. This discussion must be continued at least until the congress. There are kind of, well, premonitions, but founded premonitions that the congress will take place earlier)—Both the 28th CPSU Congress and our republic's congress. Therefore, I think that these discussions must continue on a creative course until the congress. This must come first—it should not be right away by a single or some bill.

"And, second, we must always remember that the LCP is an inheritor and not a splitter. We inherit that tradition, those values which we have created in 86 years. So this party is not a splitter but an inheritor, but is also inherits the bad past, and this bad past must be given some kind of conclusive principled assessment at the congress."

Tabuns suggests that action has to be taken concerning two more centers which have arisen. "I would even like to say, an original Central Committee coordination center at the Latvian University" and the Riga party committee activities. Kezbers replies: "My decision is very concrete. I say once more that this is a time of striving. I am in sympathy toward the idea of the LCP as a sovereign communist party, with a single meaning,

because, in a word, it is only in such a way that we shall also be able to realize our national sovereignty. I am deeply convinced about this, and my stance has a single meaning.

"I am against those forces which complain that perestroika and Gorbachev have brought about all the misfortunes, that everything had to be as of old and had to be left as it was. These forces are unattractive to me, and I categorically dissociate myself from them."

Tabuns asks Kezbers about a letter reportedly sent from the Riga party committee to Gorbachev or the Central Committee.

Kezbers replies: "I am not directly acquainted with this letter, but party members have asked me about it, and others, either directly or indirectly involved in this undertaking, have told me about it. I hope that this letter will be published. I do not have this letter, but I expect that its authors will publish it. Then we shall be able to judge its contents. I would like for it to be published and for everybody to express his opinion, every communist."

Tabuns asks Kezbers to comment on an announcement to LCP members published in IZGLITIBA by a group led by Dainis Ivans.

Kezbers comments: "It alarms me very much. I shall honestly say, it is very alarming. I shall tell you why. Because it concerns liquidation of the party. Again, individual persons want to liquidate the entire party."

"First, everyone joins the party individually, and thus everyone tackles the question of leaving or of joining individually. It appears to me that the entire LCP is not to be measured by the same yardstick. Therefore, I cannot agree with such an opinion."

"Moreover, this announcement has come about during the hot pre-election situation. All such announcements during the pre-election period are, well, an attempt to gain some kind of political capital. At least this is what I think, this is my opinion."

"I think that this is to a certain extent, well, an attempt to play politics upon the ruins of the party. This, too, is not acceptable to me, because I understand that the People's Front of Latvia has a sufficient number of problems and certain difficulties, as well as a split, to be resolved, but not perhaps at the expense of others. Do that yourselves, this would be the best way."

"And again that image of an enemy arises, that Latvian Communist, that LCP, that enemy. But I think that today we must be united, because singly we shall all lose. Such is my stand toward this document."

On what action is needed in the near future, Kezbers says: "The action is the following—to come out with our own specific principles. To come out, if it can be said like that, with a program for saving our Latvian nation".

On the upcoming CPSU Central Committee Plenum, Kezbers says: "We are awaiting this plenum, because when Comrade Gorbachev was in Vilnius he said that several new fundamental principles will be proposed at this plenum which will affect the union republics and the parties of the union republics. This promises a great deal."

"By nature perhaps I am not a great optimist. But, well, I too hope for something, because today we must be clear on what that new union will be like, in a word, or at least the proposals for it. How will it be shaped, and what is the potential structure of the Communist Partys under such a qualitatively new principle."

"I think we shall learn, this when the 28th party congress begins its work."

"Everything gives the appearance that its take place 3 to 4 months earlier. Therewith of course all the schedules for organizing our congress will be shifted. But I think we should wait for a couple of days and learn together how new in quality will be the solutions coming from the CPSU Central Committee".

Tabuns thinks that the activities and travels of Gorbachev and other Moscow comrades to Lithuania, as well as the activities in Latvia and Estonia, will lead to some kind of decisive processes.

Kezbers replies: "I think that it must be thought over in principle, because Comrade Gorbachev and his people once more ascertained how different we are, and the development and course of perestroika are very different. We see that Eastern Europe has already overtaken us on many questions, on questions of principle, on the reorganization of the political structure, making a recovery in general. This is very important, and therefore I think that from these examples also the comrades have, in a word, learned a great deal."

I would like to say that the plenum itself will consist of two parts. The first part in principle is the preparation and publication of the platform for the 28th congress, and the second part will be, as it were, the continuation of the plenum on the problems of the Communist Party of Lithuania. I think that somewhere these have something in common, and I think that they also have to be tackled in common."

Tabuns invites Kezbers to comment on the positions of Gorbachev. Kezbers says: "At present Western mass media talks intensively about Gorbachev's positions being considerably undermined, and some kind of organized opposition against him is not excluded. Well, what? I am not that well-informed that I can come to a completely independent conclusion. I am able only to say that all the opponents of perestroika, of restructuring have begun to mobilize and organize themselves. Both in the republic and nationwide."

"Besides, nevertheless, mistakes of principle were permitted at the very beginning by not solving some important basic questions of principle. That is, the new structure of the federation or the structure of the new union, the basic economic transformations. These are the minuses of Gorbachev. I think that at the present moment these could also grow into a kind of political assessments.

"[Tabuns] Yes, and the, well, let us say, perhaps the instability of the positions of Gorbachev, makes us once more think about what takes place in our home.

"[Kezbers] I have always underlined one opinion: Restructuring will not succeed in Moscow. It can succeed only if it succeeds in Moscow. By different qualities, of course, perhaps and in different forms, and this is very important. But I would like to underline the very same opinion of yours. Let us consider, let us consider and perhaps let us leave the political passions in second place."

Latvian Komsomol Splits From Moscow

LD0102144290 Vilnius in English to North America
2300 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Latvia's Komsomol organization has decided to split from Moscow, that is from All-Union Organization, becoming an independent one. The decision was taken at its congress, held in Minsk, proving lack of interest towards it amongst youngsters and society at large. Hitherto the only officially permitted youth organization, hm, has (?heavy) lost its prestige and its numbers have shrunk considerably, as a number of alternative youth organizations like scouts and guides, like [word indistinct] replacing pioneer organizations, renew or start (?to) work again. About 800 delegates representing 20,000 Komsomol members still decided to keep the old name of the organization, in order to preserve rights to the property of this organization until a completely different youth organization evolves on the basis of the former Komsomol, to become the inheritor here. The congress also crossed a point in its statutes which said Komsomol and party cooperate on a common ideological basis. The reason for that, congress said, communists themselves lack a uniform, ideological basis today.

Latvian Arms Hoards Linked to Armed Organization

PM0102160990 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN
in Russian 2 Feb 90 p 4

[Correspondent A. Timkov report under rubric "Pertinent Remarks": "Weapons on Farmsteads. For What Purpose?"]

[Text] Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic—There is no hiding the fact that calls for reprisals against communists and representatives of authority have been repeatedly made at rallies in the republic. No one took them seriously. However, the emergence of people who are ready to proceed from threats to action has greatly

alarmed the public. The arrest of L. Khirshons, a Riga photographer and cooperative member, by KGB staffers served as grounds for concern. Pistols and a lot of cartridges for them were discovered during a search of his apartment.

At first the arrestee—now already a former member of the Latvian Social Democratic Workers Party, which he joined in Sweden—claimed that this was no more than a collection, only it had not been registered in time. Then a fairytale emerged—it was a means of protection against racketeers who were after him. However, the course of the investigation suggested a different reason.

A link was established between the photographer and V. Pashkevits and Ya. Millers, inhabitants of Tukumskiy Rayon, who also turned out to be passionate "collectors." Impressive arsenals had been concentrated on farmsteads belonging to them: Submachineguns, pistols, antitank and antipersonnel mines, artillery shells, grenades, more than 1,000 live cartridges, explosives, and powder. Ya. Millers would quite frequently stroll about with a pistol, carefully oil weapons, and restore damaged components. At the same time an exercise book with descriptions of various weapons systems and ammunition and technical instructions of a kind was found at one of the farmsteads. Its first page was decorated with a drawing of a skull alongside a "schmeisser," a pistol, a trench knife, and cartridges.

In time another collector of weapons came into the KGB's field of vision—Ya. Mutseniyeks. He was illegally holding a pistol, ammunition, and explosives. A little later Ya. Legzdinsh was added to the list.

The testimony of R. Klimovich, one of the witnesses in the case of the "collectors," makes it possible to lift slightly the veil of mystery from the aforesaid people who like to have to hand combat weapons allegedly found in the woods or, according to them, acquired from people they chanced to meet. The testimony, published in the republic press, states that in August 1988 he participated together with L. Khirshons and Ya. Mutseniyeks in a meeting held in Riga which resolved to set up an armed organization. Its members planned to set up combat groups all over the republic, which would be carefully kept secret. Their purpose was to form groups of militants, specially train them, and gather all kinds of information on political organizations, the KGB, the Soviet Army, the armament of its subunits, the guard system, and the number of servicemen. According to R. Klimovich, this plan was approved by a foreign journalist who came to Latvia and whose informant he became.

The professional actions of the republic KGB staffers cut short the "freedom fighters'" schemes. But they did have time to do some things. The routes followed by the workers of one KGB rayon department were drawn up, as were the places of residence of members of their families and the numbers of official and private cars. They even secured military information constituting a

state secret. These are the preliminary results of the investigation, on whose progress the republic KGB organs constantly brief the population.

Lithuanian Supreme Soviet Session To Open 6 Feb

LD0102235590 *Vilnius in English to North America*
2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] A session of Lithuanian Supreme Soviet will open next Tuesday [6 February], but the beginning will be quite unusual. The point is that a group of MPs will go to the southeastern regions of Lithuania to meet the people there. Afterward, the session is to debate the problem of southeast Lithuania, which emerged when autonomous Polish districts were proclaimed by the local bodies of self-government. As is known, such an autonomy runs counter to the Lithuanian Constitution.

The session will also consider a draft resolution by which Lithuania's incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 is declared illegal.

Lithuanian Presidium Suggests Legalizing Holidays

LD0102162690 *Vilnius in Lithuanian to North America*
0100 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Presented by Edvinas Butkas]

[Text] A decision has been adopted by the Presidium at its latest sitting to present a bill for discussion at the upcoming session of the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet concerning Lithuanian state and national holidays.

The draft law suggests that 16 February, the day when the statehood of Lithuania was reinstated, be declared a state holiday. Last year, this holiday had a status of a national holiday and only the year before last was this holiday banned, as it had been many decades ago.

The bill also outlined that Easter, Mother's day, which is the first Sunday in May, 14 of June, the day of mourning and hope and 1 November, the day of respecting the dead, be declared national holidays. Christmas will be celebrated on 25 December.

Party Secretaries Invited to Moscow Plenum

LD0202115190 *Vilnius Domestic Service in Lithuanian*
1000 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Journalist Algimantas Zukas report]

[Text] the Four secretaries of the Independent Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee are currently taking part in the preselection campaign. They are visiting Lithuanian towns and rayons. For example, Comrade Brazauskas is in Kaisiadorys; Comrade Paleckis in Marijampole; Glaveckas in Siauliai; and Beriozovas in Kedainiai. They planned to continue their campaign, but, whereas previously only Comrade Brazauskas was invited to take part in the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, yesterday evening it was decided in Moscow that all four secretaries should be invited. They will have

to return to Vilnius tonight and fly tomorrow to Moscow. It seems that in Moscow our problems are now being understood. However, this means that none of them will be able to take part in the Lithuanian Movement for Restructuring [Sajudis] conference. It is a pity, because one of them should speak there. Even so, members of the Central Committee Bureau will be present, and one of them will speak at the conference.

What is the mood in Moscow on the eve of the plenum? Gediminas Kirkila and I were in Moscow the day before yesterday, and met people in the news agency [as heard] and the polytechnic. We gained the impression that opinions differ greatly, from the opinion that we are advancing toward fascism, to full approval. I think that this plenum will also have influence on forming opinions not only in Moscow, but also throughout the Soviet Union. We all understand that the question of Lithuania will not be the main problem. There are more important problems.

Opposing Lithuanian Opinions Analyzed

90UN0774A *Moscow SOYUZ in Russian*
No 3, 15-21 Jan 90 p 2

[Article by Nikolay Lashkevich, Vilnius, 17 January, by telephone: "Lithuania at Crossroad of Opinions"]

[Text] The press center, established in connection with M.S. Gorbachev's visit to the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic], has frequently compared the present socio-political situation in the republic with a crossroad at which a column of motor vehicles arrived and stopped in ignorance: Which way to go? One driver stepped on the gas and, without looking, roared off to the right; one turned to the left, not looking at the traffic light warning arrow; one turned in search of a detour; and one sadly threw up his hands, complaining about being out of gas. I am not sure that the comparison is apt, just like any other comparison, but it is figurative enough. The ultimate route of the traffic would seem to be clear for a majority of the passengers and drivers—independence. But how does one get to it? Where is the shortest and accident-free route that is being sought? Will not the road bring additional burdens and deprivations? Opinions collide, passions are aflame, and accusations are pouring forth. Each has his own "driving" experience and method of traffic control, and each has in reserve the next detail of accusatory reasoning against the opponent.

A brief example. On the last day of M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Lithuania, two workers spoke at the meeting of the party active group.

"So, why did we decide to organize the CPLi [Communist Party of Lithuania]?" asked L. Vebra, a traffic controller at the production association "Sigma." "We wanted to be independent, and so that there would not be the kind of situation where the center gives permission for one or another right... on 12 June 1920 Lenin

gave us independence. This year is the 70th year of Lithuania's independence. I think that we can make our holiday a double holiday.

"An independent CPLi," said V. Pavlovich, another worker, "in point of fact joined up with informal organizations that came out, as you know, against the Soviet system. The cream of the crop of the new CPLi is campaigning for power, and this is their main objective.

These statements are typical of the opposing sides. One side asserts that the new party will give a guarantee of gaining independence. A second asserts that the objective of the CPLi, which is recorded in the party program—building an independent Lithuanian state—is nothing more than a propaganda ruse; a third, that this party has taken social democratic and not communist positions; and a fourth, that withdrawal from the union threatens political and economic bankruptcy. In a word, truly there are as many opinions as there are people. But I entered the words of the workers in a notebook, because the statements of the workers were unique among the many different representatives of the intelligentsia at the meeting of party activists. I automatically thought: If they cannot even find a common language despite, it would seem, a community of interests, then why talk here about a consolidation of the party and "Sajudis," an independent CPLi and a CPLi (on a CPSU platform), a CPLi and the CPSU, and, on the whole, all progressive forces in Lithuania? The crack that is now dividing people along political, national, and other lines is no longer trying to make out what social layer it should go through further.

For the time being, this immutable fact can be stated: The opposition that surfaced after the 20th Congress of the CPLi at times develops into open intolerance. This is by no means the polarization of opinions that has become usual, when as a result of sharp discussions the clashes of various views on a debatable problem are crystallized in an optimal and mutually acceptable decision. At times, paradoxical things happen on this path. For example, at the session of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet that was held last Monday, A. Brazauskas, the first secretary of the CPLi Central Committee, was elected chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Four deputies voted against his candidacy. The paradox is not that they voted against him—we have already gotten accustomed to this—but that among them were deputies who held exactly the very opposite views: Two representatives of "Sajudis" and two current leaders of the CPLi (on the CPSU platform).

At a press conference, V. Landsbergis, the chairman of the council of the "Sajudis" sejm, perhaps for the first time, announced in a straightforward and unambiguous way to a rather broad journalistic audience—the trip was being covered by about 150 foreign journalists and by more than 100 Soviet correspondents—that the problem with the independence of Lithuania is an interstate one, and not an internal problem of the USSR; that the organization of an independent CPLi is an interparty

problem, and not an internal problem of the CPSU; and, accordingly, that the arrival of the Soviet leader should be considered from a political-state aspect, and as the visit of a leader to a neighboring state.

It is possible that this tactical move of "Sajudis" was dictated by aspirations to use the visit of M.S. Gorbachev to put a finishing touch to something world public opinion could become familiar with. Or did pre-election campaign considerations play a role here? But, perhaps, it was necessary to smooth over the unfavorable impression from the recent sociological polling of the population, where the popularity of "Sajudis" for the first time fell in comparison with the independent CPLi?

I will not guess. In any case, V. Landsbergis took a step to the side of a greater demarcation. There was also a lot of emotion on Cathedral Square in Vilnius, which was organized by the Lithuanian movement for perestroika. People were holding burning candles, bells were ringing, and a divine service was going on in the cathedral.

The latent problem of the independence of the CPLi, which evoked such an ambiguous assessment at the CPSU Central Committee Plenum, shifted to another plane.... It became clear that it was somewhat premature to rejoice over the "unity" of "Sajudis" and the CPLi, which seemed to have been contemplated as a result of the decisions of the 20th Congress of the CPLi. The clarification followed that "Sajudis" does not support the party, but its individual representatives. The reason for the disagreements that arose, in my opinion, are rooted in the different approaches to an understanding of independence. If the CPLi asserts that the achievement of real independence is a progressive and, perhaps, a long process, then "Sajudis" is basically more disposed to more radical decisions. "Total freedom from the jurisdiction and the administrative system of the USSR," is what R. Ozolas, one of the leaders of "Sajudis" and a USSR people's deputy, said.

At numerous meetings with work collectives of enterprises, farms, and representatives of the scientific and artistic intelligentsia (meetings took place in 15 rayons and cities and in more than 40 work collectives), the words "independence, freedom, and statehood" could be heard insistently and frequently. During a visit to a Vilnius fuel equipment plant M.S. Gorbachev met with a worker with a placard on his chest: "Not more rights, but full independence." The worker explained independence afterwards as seceding from the USSR. As the saying goes, it is stated clearly and unequivocally....

This thesis about secession, naturally, required serious counter arguments, which M.S. Gorbachev has mentioned more than once in his speeches: Apparently, there is no need to cite them inasmuch as all the speeches were shown on television and were published in detail in the newspapers. Do they take into account in their striving for independence the reality existing in the union—economic, social, cultural, and demographic? Do they

understand that to speak of full independence of states and freedom in a world that today is rushing toward integration—means to delude the people? Can it really be that in Lithuania they do not see alternatives to secession from the USSR, especially given the near-term outlook for the Union—a renewed federation, in which all republics will really be independent, equal, and sovereign? Are they really seriously counting on the fact that in an independent Lithuania there will quickly follow a real improvement in the quality of the life of the people, and that independence will be a panacea for all troubles? The discussion was sharp and frank, at times impartial, and it proceeded basically in the vein of these questions and the answers to them.

Many were surprised by the fact that their participants seemed to agree with the reasons, nodding their heads in agreement—it is difficult to object owing to their logic—but then and there declared: "And, nevertheless...." After the meeting of party activists, which was held on the last day, I talked with many of its participants—the effect was the same. What is this? An inability to think things out? Blindness?

How did the dialogue go? The answer will suggest the future, because it will be continued at the Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. A package of proposals, which was laid out at the 20th CPLi Congress, will also be considered at the forthcoming CPSU Congress. The positions of each of the sides were made known with the utmost clarity, and concurring points of view were made clear both at a party and a state level. At the present time, the question continues to be rather acute: Whether we are to live together or apart. The answer to it, apparently, still has to be sought by way of reason, and not emotions. "Let us think responsibly," said M.S. Gorbachev at one of the meetings. I will underscore the word "think"....

Lithuanian Foreign Ministry Activities Noted

90UN0772A Vilnius SOBYTIYA I VREMYA
in Russian No 1, Jan 90 pp 30, 31

[Article by Vitautas Kazakyavichyus: "What Foreign Ministry of Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic Is Doing," under rubric "The ABC's of Diplomacy" directed by Gediminas Blazhis, head of the protocol section of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry; first two paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] The sphere of foreign relations has long been an area of the republic's social life which seldom reaped benefits. We were content with local relations, 10-day festivals, and other contacts of little commitment. It is not surprising that not everyone knew of the existence of the symbolic establishment with its enigmatic sign "Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lithuanian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]."

Perestroyka has been placing real content into concepts. Lithuania is more and more frequently falling into the sphere of foreign politics. Ever more frequently there

arises a need for international relations and diplomatic skills which cannot be avoided when we see increased visits of foreign diplomats, statesmen, and industrialists, when we ourselves travel to foreign countries in an effort to resolve important political, economic, and cultural questions. We therefore introduce a new column with this issue which will help answer many of the questions that trouble us.

The People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs of the Lithuanian SSR was established on 17 October 1944 by resolution of the LiSSR Soviet of People's Commissars. It changed its name on 25 March 1946, becoming the LiSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The department was created based on a law of the USSR Supreme Soviet dated 1 February 1944, which reads:

With the aim of expanding international ties and strengthening the cooperation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics with other states, and in consideration of the growing need for union republics to establish direct relations with foreign states, the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics resolves:

"1. To establish that the union republics may enter into direct relations with foreign states and conclude agreements with them."

The USSR Commissariat of Foreign Affairs was reorganized for this purpose into union-republic departments. I. Stalin and V. Molotov accepted the idea during negotiations with allied leaders in establishing the United Nations. Attempts were undertaken to make all the Soviet republics founder-members. Although the idea never succeeded, republic commissariats of foreign affairs were not eliminated, and the laws were not repealed which formally authorized diplomatic activity on the part of republics.

As early as May 1944, the highest school of diplomacy introduced preparatory courses for leading officials of the union-republic commissariats of foreign affairs, which were attended by four Lithuanian representatives. Another three attended the school itself (our present academy).

(Commissar) Povilas Rotomskis (1906-1962) was appointed the first LiSSR minister of foreign affairs on 1 December 1944. Occupying the post after him were Ignas Gashka (1891-1972) during the years 1949-1979, Kazis Preykshas (1903-1961) during 1959-1961, Leokadija Dirzhinskayte during the period 1966-1976, Vitautas Zenkyavichyus from 1976 to 1988, and Vladislavas Mikuchyauskas since 1988.

The instituted commissariat had four departments—political, protocol and consular, secret cipher communications, and administration—in which more than 40 people were employed. Initially the main effort was devoted to evacuation of the population from Lithuania to Poland. Government delegations of Poland and Lithuania reached agreement on this question in August 1944 in Lublin. On 3 December 1945, a delegation from

Poland and the LiSSR Commissariat of Foreign Affairs conducted official negotiations in Warsaw with representatives of the Polish Government. Commissariat officials had a great deal of consular business in connection with the return of residents to Lithuania who had been scattered by the war, and with the departure of its citizens from Lithuania.

Soon, however, all these matters were disposed of, and the specially trained cadre was assigned other responsibilities. In 1950 all departments were closed and there remained two positions—minister and...typists. In 1958 two additional aide positions were established. In 1959 the post of minister was curtailed, his responsibilities being exercised by the deputy chairman of the LiSSR Council of Ministers as an additional duty. A political department was instituted after several years, and in 1966—a consular office and administrative management section.

In 1970, 17 individuals were working in the ministry (without a minister). However, the diplomatic aktiv comprised fewer than 10 people. The political department collected and analyzed press reports and engaged in protocol matters. The consular section dealt with exit matters, issue of passports, legalization of documents, etc.

At the end of 1989, more than 30 employees were working at the LiSSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 18 of whom were diplomats. There were 10 officials of diplomatic rank, three had completed the highest schools of diplomacy, one was continuing his studies, three former officials had left to work in diplomatic departments of the USSR abroad (the United Nations, Senegal, Guinea). The average age of ministry leaders and department chiefs was 52.1 years, i.e., lower than in the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Functioning since the beginning of last year, following a change in the structure of ministry subunits, are press, protocol, consular, passport and visa, and administrative sections.

The press section collects and processes information concerning foreign states and international organizations, and Lithuanian ties with them, prepares appropriate reference materials and recommendations for republic departments, collects and analyzes the foreign emigre press, and every 2 months issues a 30-40 page informational bulletin. It receives foreign journalists and assists them in making their arrangements, provides information to Lithuanian journalists, organizes briefings, etc.

The protocol section is responsible for organizing the visits of foreign diplomats, statesmen, and delegations to the republic, and for the protocol portion of these visits. It monitors observance of visitation regulations by foreigners, maintains ties with foreign diplomatic services in the USSR, draws up appropriate documentation, etc.

The work of the consular section has expanded noticeably recently. With increased numbers of Latvian residents making trips abroad and expanded contacts of

various kinds with foreigners and foreign citizens, many documents must be legalized and many questions of arrival and departure resolved.

Just about the greatest change of all, however, has been the increased work volume and number of employees in the passport and visa section, which began to function independently at the end of 1989 when the number of official and other trips abroad grew appreciably. In just 11 months of 1989, over 30,000 passports and other exit documents were issued. The section registers documents for trips to the socialist countries and, since 1 November 1989, deals directly with the embassies and consulates of the capitalist and developing countries in the Soviet Union on visa matters. Two of our officials, therefore, work in Moscow.

A group is being organized in the ministry for analyzing economic ties with foreign countries.

In recent times we have been energetically striving to get the republic Foreign Ministry more actively involved in international politics, both directly and through the union ministry.

Several dozen well-known social and cultural figures have worked in the ministry apparatus over 45 years. In addition to the individuals already mentioned, these include Tadas Chernyauskas, Robertas Zhyugzhda, Vladas Taurinskas, Iokubas Minkyavichyus, Albertas Kniva, Jonas Klichyus, Laurinas Kapochyus, Richardas Vaygauskas, Mikolas Yatskyavichyus, Vitautas Burkauskas, and others.

Lithuanian Newspaper Prices Raised

PM0102211590 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
2 Feb 90 First Edition p 1

[Report by A. Lisauskas, chief of department at PRAVDA Publishing House: "Newspaper Prices Going Up...."]

[Text] Vilnius—The lines of newspaper buyers at Lithuania's "Soyuzpechat" newsstands this morning were moving much more slowly than usual. The reason was very simple. The prices of all the main republic newspapers sold through "Soyuzpechat" newsstands and stores went up as of 1 February. The price of 4-page newspapers is now 10 kopecks, a double-size issue will cost 20 kopecks.

This decision was made by the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau following numerous letters and complaints received by the Central Committee and the editorial offices of republic newspapers and literary press organs that it was impossible to buy republic newspapers at newsstands in the mornings. Their print runs for retail sale have been severely curtailed in 1990. This situation developed because the subscription print runs for republic newspapers are much larger this year and, furthermore, the Lithuanian

Communist Party Central Committee last year authorized the publishing of dozens of new publications by informal organizations, while the quantity of newsprint received from centralized stocks remained the same as last year. It is hardly sufficient to meet the subscription demand. Newsprint in excess of norms can be acquired only at contract prices, which are much higher than normal prices.

It was decided to temporarily suspend the publication of weekly issues with supplements and to use recycled paper for print runs earmarked for free sale.

Baltic Economic Sovereignty To Be Discussed

LD0102234190 Vilnius in English to North America
2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Following several meetings and long discussions in Moscow the parties have come to an agreement that the Soviet Union's council of Ministers will adopt a special resolution on the practical implementation of the Baltic republics' economic sovereignty by 5th February.

The differences between the governments of the Soviet Union and the Baltic republics are due to the disagreeing interpretation of the law on the Baltic republics' economic sovereignty, adopted a little over two months ago.

The last and perhaps the final meeting at this stage was held in Moscow yesterday and was attended by the premiers and other leaders of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The Lithuanian Prime Minister Vytautas Sakalauskas pointed on his return from Moscow that the Lithuanian team had been defending the republic's maximum claims, that is to leave only defense facilities, oil and gas pipelines and international communication channels under all-union management. For the time being an agreement has been reached concerning 43 all-union enterprises of the total number of about 100 in Lithuania, as well as on the transference of all industrial enterprises of mixed subordination to the management of the republic alone. Further steps will be taken, the Lithuanian premier pointed out, to achieve the transference of the remaining enterprises, too.

The Lithuanians and the other two republics also succeeded, though not without difficulty, to defend their rights to establish joint ventures with foreign firms on their own, to manage their imports and exports and obtain credits directly from foreign firms and banks. Tourism will be also managed not through Moscow but by direct agreements with foreign tourist firms.

The leaders of the Soviet Union's government were however categorically opposed to the idea to let the republics form their hard currency funds independently and to suspend deductions from those funds to the center for some time. It was pointed out that in this case Lithuania would have to cover part of the Soviet Union's foreign debt.

Belorussian Central Committee Plenum Held 27 Dec

90UN07301 Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA
in Russian 28 Dec 89 p 1

[Text] The Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee 16th Plenum was held on 27 December 1989 in Minsk. The plenum studied the draft platform of the Belorussian Communist Party for the elections of people's deputies of the Belorussian SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] and the local soviets of the republic and also the tasks of the party organizations of the republic pertaining to realization of the guidelines of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum (25-26 December 1989). The report was delivered by Ye. Sokolov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee.

The following participated in the debate: A.A. Zelenovskiy, first secretary of the Brest Obkom [Oblast Party Committee]; V.Y. Bebesheko, excavator operator of the "Gomelvodstroy" Trust's Buda-Koshelevskaya Mobile Mechanized Column No 69; V.V. Chikin, secretary of the party committee of the "Minskiy Chasovoy Zavod" Production Association; A.I. Aleshin, first secretary of the Grodno Gorkom [City Party Committee]; V.V. Kudlash, first secretary of the Belorussian Leninist Communist Youth League Central Committee; V.K. Kondratovich, chief economist of Minskiy Rayon's "Borovlyany" Sovkhoz [State Farm]; Yu.M. Khusainov, first deputy chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Belorussian SSR State Agroindustrial Committee; V.S. Leonov, first secretary of the Mogilev Obkom; V.P. Shetin, diesel locomotive engineer at the Vitebsk Locomotive Depot; L.V. Barabanov, secretary of the party committee of the "Gomselmash" Production Association; G.N. Serov, deputy director of the Belorussian SSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee] Research Economics Institute; Ye.K. Votyovich, minister of culture of the Belorussian SSR; V.G. Galko, first secretary of the Minsk Gorkom; M.F. Kantorovich, first secretary of the Zelvenskiy Raykom [Rayon Party Committee]; V.V. Grigoryev, first secretary of the Vitebsk Obkom; G.T. Milovanov, deputy chairman of the Belorussian Republic Council of War and Labor Veterans; F.N. Tormanov, first secretary of the Petrikovskiy Raykom; and Belorussian SSR Prosecutor G.S. Tarnavskiy.

M.V. Kovalev, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers, replied to the questions put to him.

Information on certain observations heard at the plenum was provided by V.I. Goncharik, chairman of the Belorussian Council of Trade Unions.

Ye.Ye. Sokolov spoke in conclusion.

The plenum adopted the resolution "Tasks of the Republic Party Organizations Pertaining to Realization of the Guidelines of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum (25-26 December 1989)".

The plenum confirmed the platform of the Belorussian Communist Party for the elections of people's deputies of the Belorussian SSR and the republic's local soviets.

The plenum studied organizational matters.

The plenum promoted from candidate to full member of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau V.I. Goncharik, chairman of the Belorussian Republic Council of Trade Unions.

In connection with the confirmation as deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Court of V.O. Sukalo he was relieved of his duties as chief of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Department of State and Law.

In connection with his election as chairman of the ispolkom [executive committee] of the Gomel Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies N.G. Voytenkov was relieved of his duties as chief of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Agrarian Department.

V.B. Narkevich was confirmed as editor of the newspaper ZVYAZDA.

Z.K. Prigodich was confirmed as editor of the newspaper SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA.

The plenum promoted from candidate to full member of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee N.F. Grinev, chairman of the ispolkom of the Mogilev Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies; M.I. Demchuk, minister of public education of the Belorussian SSR; A.P. Ogarkova, director of Kamenetskiy Rayon's Vyskovskaya High School; V.L. Palyukevich, administrator of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee; A.V. Rusetskiy, chief of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Ideology Department; and L.S. Shulzhenko, machine operator of the Gomel M.I. Kalinin Car-Repair Plant.

The participants in the plenum honored the memory of K.T. Mazurov with a minute's silence.

This concluded the plenum.

Belorussian Party Chief Meets Press

90UN0753A Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 5 Jan 90 p 1

[BELTA report: "Ye.Ye. Sokolov Meeting With Journalists"]

[Text] The collective of ZVYAZDA—the oldest Belorussian party paper—is enjoying its second childhood. And not only in the direct sense—the average age of the editorial staff barely approaches 40—but also metaphorically: The paper has recently become noticeably more pungent, problem-raising, and interesting. Also natural is the result: In the current year ZVYAZDA has been the only Belorussian-speaking republic publication which has not only not lost a single subscriber but which has also gained almost 17,000 new ones.

While noting this gratifying fact with satisfaction at a 3 January meeting in the editorial offices with Ye.Ye. Sokolov, first secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, its employees nonetheless did not speak about their achievements. The discussion, which was held in a lively, informal atmosphere, was a mutual exchange of opinions on the place and role of the press in perestroika, the increased efficacy of newspaper publications and a strengthening of the ties of the editorial outfits to the readers. It was emphasized that in order for the mass media to worthily perform their lofty mission it is necessary to tell the truth about life in all its fullness and diversity and to avoid one-sidedness and a rectilinear approach, sweeping disparagement and shrill sensationalism. It was necessary to see both the dark and light aspects of life and view ongoing processes through the prism of the goals and tasks of perestroika, analyzing in balanced fashion both existing problems and accumulated experience.

Broaching questions of the relations of the people working in the mass media and the party committees, the participants in the meeting observed that they should be organized, as stipulated by the election platform of the Belorussian Communist Party, on the basis of comradeship and constructive interaction and the journalists' increased personal responsibility for the truthfulness and reliability of the publications. Both are engaged in very important work, and for this reason we need to rid ourselves of the mutual misunderstanding which exists at times and become true partners in common—party—work.

Problems were raised during the meeting in connection with the revival of national culture and the Belorussian language and with imparting official status to the latter. It was stressed that a sober approach taking account of the actual situation in the republic is necessary here. A great deal in this respect can and should be done by the press—via propaganda of the native tongue in the collectives, particularly youth collectives, in the family and via inculcation of the whole population with the need for daily communication in Belorussian.

Many questions were put to the editorial office's guests, to which the journalists obtained exhaustive replies.

A.S. Kamay, secretary of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee, and V.F. Kebich, deputy chairman of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic Council of Ministers and chairman of the republic State Planning Committee; and Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee department chiefs V.I. Boris, of organizational-party and cadre work, and A.V. Rusetskiy, of ideology; and other senior officials of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee participated in the discussion. Similar meetings between the party leadership and journalists will be held in the editorial offices of other republic mass media.

Belorussian First Secretary Addresses Plenum

90UN0730B Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA
in Russian 28 Dec 89 pp 1-2

[Report by Ye. Sokolov, first secretary of Belorussian Communist Party (BCP) Central Committee, to the Central Committee's 16th Plenum in Minsk on 27 December: "BCP Platform for Election of People's Deputies of Belorussian SSR and Local Soviets of the Republic"]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

As you know, a special two-day CPSU Central Committee plenum was of the unanimous opinion that now, at the most crucial stage of transformations, we particularly need cohesion and unity in the ranks of the CPSU based on the goals of perestroika.

Its fate will largely depend on how we act today and tomorrow, in the long term. Under conditions where the differentiation of positions, polarization, and the spread of opinions are intensifying, it is essential to have a document determining our immediate and long-term tasks free of ideological imprecision and as clear as can be for each person.

Elaborating the platform of the Belorussian Communist Party [BCP] in respect to the moral, spiritual, political, and economic renewal of all aspects of the life of the republic, we have endeavored to define the fundamental approaches to the solution of the problems that are troubling the working people currently.

This should essentially be a brief exposition of the policy which the BCP intends to implement via the party committees and organizations and via the communists working in the soviets, economic-planning authorities and public organizations, and in the labor collectives.

As you know, the Central Committee plenum was preceded by a great deal of preparatory work, in which many thousands of communists in all oblasts, cities, and rayons participated. We received a great number of observations and proposals. The Central Committee departments collated them and submitted them to the special commission formed by the Central Committee Bureau, where they were closely examined. In working up the document the commission considered more than 230 amendments and additions, and you already have the draft, which has accumulated them.

I

Comrades! A comprehensive description of the social and political situation in the country—and it is largely characteristic of our republic also—was provided by the Second Congress of USSR People's Deputies just ended. On the one hand democratic undertakings, which are imparting new life and new political dynamics to the processes occurring in our society, are becoming an increasingly extensive and profound part of our life. On the other, the measures pertaining to implementation of

the economic and political reforms and the creation of a state based on the rule of law are not meeting with understanding with everyone.

The sharpness of debate and the strong polarization of opinions, and guardedness even, are growing. This cannot, naturally, fail to be reflected in the people's mood. The imbalance of the consumer market, environmental pollution, the shortcomings in cultural, medical, and consumer services and the growth of crime are making their mark.

Elections in such a complex situation of the new Supreme Soviet and local soviets not only in terms of composition but in essence, in terms of tasks and style of work, also—this is a serious test of political maturity for each party committee, each primary party organization, and the BCP as a whole.

It is obvious to all of you that the results of the elections will be of decisive significance for the fate of perestroika in the republic, and the entire course of the election campaign should be linked most closely with the preparations for the 31st BCP Congress and the 28th CPSU Congress.

For the republic party organization there is taking today no more important a task than taking possession of the political initiative, showing more concern for man and his spiritual and moral development, and improving the life of the working people on the basis of an increase in the efficiency of the national economy and its social reorientation.

The BCP Central Committee Bureau believes that this proposition needs to be clearly set forth in the first section of the platform and predetermines the approach to the content of the "Economic Policy Under the Conditions of Self-Management and Self-Financing" and "Social Policy" sections. They should ultimately correspond to the needs and interests of each family and each person.

Despite the shortcomings in material-technical supply, it has been possible to reach the five-year plan targets in the current year. In 11 months production increased 4.9 percent, and productivity, 5.3 percent, in industry. The quotas pertaining to retail commodity turnover and chargeable services were met. The transport organizations are operating without interruptions. The plans for the procurement of animal husbandry and plant-growing products will be fulfilled. Some R719 million of consumer goods additional to the state commission were manufactured in January-November alone. The physical plant of public education, culture, trade, and consumer service is improving, and work on the rearrangement and civic improvement of the countryside is being performed actively.

At the same time dissatisfaction with the development of the economy and the social sphere is not diminishing. The population's purchasing power is growing faster

than the manufacture of goods. This is "pressing" on the consumer market, frequently assuming ugly speculative forms.

The opinion that the difficult socioeconomic and environmental situation in the country has made its mark on Belorussia has become quite prevalent among many of the republic's cadres. To a certain extent this is the case. The main reason, however, is, in my view, the fact that the soviet and economic-planning authorities, the communist leaders of ministries and departments, and many cadres locally are allowing a certain lack of dispatch, more, are working with no particular end in view.

To this it should be added that certain leaders are displaying a demobilizing mood. Some of them are declaring that the "Belorussian version" of self-management and self-financing will prove ineffective and that we should be going the same way as the Baltic republics. Others are expressing skepticism regarding an improvement in the work of the agroindustrial complex and provision of the population with food. But what strikes one here? The forecasts are being made in spheres in which the competence of the forecasters is not that great, to put it mildly. Forecasting is useful only if it is built on in-depth knowledge and is accompanied by painstaking day-to-day work.

And there is work for us to do. Group egotism in the economy, in particular, has not been removed. Can it be considered normal that a number of enterprises of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic [BSSR] Ministry of Light Industry and the BSSR Ministry of Timber Industry are in the planning phase padding outlays on production, failing to take into account in the plan indicators of the economies which have been made and then obtaining an increase in profits not corresponding to the actual labor contribution and calculating the economic stimulation funds in amounts considerably in excess of those adopted in the estimates.

And how should we view the instances of the leaders of certain enterprises and organizations, instead of acquiring overseas the necessary equipment and technology for facilitating labor and increasing the manufacture of the necessary products, tackling other production and social questions, and purchasing products on a specious pretext for prestige and career purposes? And spending premium-category scarce foreign currency to this end. This is being done with the ministries' knowledge in the majority of cases.

We need to erect a barrier to this vicious practice. An enhancement of the engineering level of production and the development of the social sphere should be given priority today. To put it briefly, the main paths of the accomplishment of socioeconomic tasks are as follows.

First, the republic's transition as of the start of 1990 to the principles of self-financing and self-management and the extensive introduction of new economic relations.

Second, the structural reorganization of the economy on the basis of the latest technology and equipment and the reorientation of production toward the manufacture of consumer goods.

Third, the utmost increase in labor, plan, and contract discipline and order in all walks of life, which our people are today demanding so insistently. We can no longer fail to take account of this change in the public mood, and the most decisive steps in this direction will undoubtedly encounter active support.

Difficult tasks, of course. They will require of all of us, of each inhabitant of the republic, tremendous efforts. It will be necessary to overcome the difficulties of the transition period, when the old administrative methods have not yet been abandoned and the new, economic, methods have not yet been assimilated. But we have no other way if we wish to turn the economy toward man even more.

This principle is embedded also in the plan of the republic's economic and social development for 1990. It outlines a reallocation of the national income in favor of consumption, a reduction in capital investments in the production sphere and an appreciable increase in the nonproduction sphere and a high increase in consumer goods and services.

To what frontiers specifically will the plan bring us and how will this permit a change in the situation in the most acute social spheres?

II

The food problem. The average annual production of the gross agricultural product increased in the period 1986-1989 some 10.6 percent compared with the average annual level of the 11th Five-Year Plan, and on the kolkhozes [collective farms] and sovkhoses [state farms], 22.4 percent.

In the current year per capita consumption of milk will rise to 420 kg and next year will increase by almost 20 kg. The rational quota for the consumption of this product recommended by the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Food Institute is 380 kg, incidentally.

The rational quota of meat consumption is 84 kg. With us now it is 72 kg, and next year we will have 76 kg (68 kg in the countryside). The republic will reach the rational meat quota in 1992-1993.

Per capita egg consumption next year will be 327 (326 this year) against a norm of 270.

As you know, 72,000 tons of meat, 360,000 tons of milk, and 80 million eggs have been taken off the list of the republic's supplies to all-union stocks for 1990. The bulk thereof will go to improve the supply of food to the population which suffered from the Chernobyl accident.

There is every opportunity for catering in the winter period for continuous trade in potatoes, cabbage, carrots, and sugar beets. Some nine kg of fresh hothouse vegetables will be sold per urban resident this winter.

We support the development in the agrarian sector of diverse forms of management and advocate the creation of equal economic conditions for the agrarian integrated works, kolkhozes, sovkhozes, leased enterprises and family farms.

At the same time, however, I would like to emphasize that the main producers of agricultural products have been and remain the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Why do I draw your attention to this? The point is that hesitation has arisen in some of the executive personnel concerning the prospects of kolkhoz-sovkhoz production. Some comrades are drawing the parallels to the effect that in the non-Chernozem area the kolkhozes and sovkhozes are being disbanded and that there is no point in us hanging on to them either.

Such opinions simply lack common sense. I shall cite you the thinking of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, which he has been expressing repeatedly of late. The development of leasing relations, peasant farms, and family farms, he said, needs to be approached not formally, not in campaign fashion, and not indiscriminately but with the necessary regard for the salient features of this region or the other.

We wonder: Are the supporters of the disbandment of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes taking into account the salient features of our republic?

Are they taking into consideration the quite sizable personnel potential which we have today on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes?

Are they taking into account the relatively high level of provision of kolkhoz-sovkhoz production with equipment?

Are they considering the efficiency of the work of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes and the benefits which we obtain from the implementation of measures pertaining to the specialization and concentration of production and the introduction of industrial and intensive techniques?

Are they considering the social aspect of the matter and, what is most important, the opinions of the peasants themselves, whose tenor of life differs, of course, from that in that same non-Chernozem area, say?

Each of us could continue this series.

The kolkhozes and sovkhozes have proven their viability under the conditions of our republic. So breaking them up for the sake of appearing "modern" would not simply be a mistake but a crime.

We have defined the arterial paths of the development of the agroindustrial complex, and our paramount task is

fulfilling what has been planned. Incidentally, we put among the arterial paths also an improvement in economic relationships in the countryside and the extensive application of leasing. However, the republic's particular features dictate the form of introduction of leasing also: Chiefly within the farms. This is just what is being done by many kolkhozes and sovkhozes, showing by practice and results that they are acting correctly.

At the same time we need to approach more boldly the conjunction of industrial enterprises and the weak farms. In principle this could assume the following appearance: A plant builds modern agricultural works, a modern agro-community with the entire necessary infrastructure, and hands all this over to the rural workers, who cultivate and supply to the plant work force products in accordance with its contribution. Enterprises may pool their resources, of course.

It is also important to stimulate the development of the private subsidiary plots. Each family in the countryside should have in its yard, if not all types of livestock, several, at least, horses included.

In 1990 alone almost R150 million will be channeled into the agroindustrial complex from all sources of financing than scheduled by the five-year plan, and 1.9 times more into the processing sectors.

New capacity will be introduced: At the Gorodok, Chausskoye, and Borisov dairy enterprises this year; at the Mozyr, Grodno, Logoyskoye, Tolochin, and Gomel dairy enterprises, next year; at the Pinsk, Mogilev, Polotsk, and Brest meat-packing plants next year also.

This will make it possible to appreciably increase the production of meat and dairy products, broaden their selection, and reduce losses of raw material.

The problem of providing the population with soft cheese, fruit juice, vegetable convenience foods, gingerbread, cookies, mineral water, nonalcoholic beverages, and a number of confectionery products will have been solved, in the main, next year. Per capita consumption of fish and fish products will constitute 20 kg a year.

Consumer goods. Whereas in 1986-1988 the average annual rate of increase in nonfood consumer products amounted to 7.2 percent, next year it is contemplated that the growth thereof will be in the 16.7 percent range.

The new capacity which has been introduced recently will make it possible to lessen the scarcity of many commodities. As you know, in conjunction with the West German Salamander firm the "Belwest" footwear enterprise has been set up in Vitebsk. Capacity for the production of 1.7 million pairs of shoes in the "Luch" Association, 15 million pieces of knitted underwear at the Soligorsk Factory, and R8 million of furniture in the "Pinskdiv" Association will have been introduced by the end of the year.

Some 1.5 times more washing machines, 20 percent more television receivers, one-third more household

soap, and 16 percent more toilet soap will be manufactured in 1990. And this is not in money but in physical values.

Particular attention has been paid to an increase in the production of light industry products at low prices for elderly people. The manufacture of men's underwear will increase by a factor of almost 2.5, of women's coats, by a factor of 2.2, and of winter boots, by a factor of 1.2.

Taking advantage of the rights acquired in connection with the transition to the principles of self-financing and self-management, the republic leadership sought for next year a certain increase in market allocations in respect to individual commodities: 14 percent for stockings and hosiery, and 16 percent for knitwear, including an increase of 14 percent of knitwear for children; 10 percent for silk cloth; and 20 percent for furniture.

It is important for catering to people's needs and requirements to more effectively engage the potential of the defense sector of industry. It is essential to use the capacity released in connection with reduction in the manufacture of military equipment for an increase in the production of technically intricate and high-quality commodities such as, say, television receivers, radio receivers, personal computers, personal radiation monitors, and so forth.

Conversion should also help solve the problem of the production of computers for schools and an increase in the manufacture of medical apparatus and equipment for the processing sectors and light industry.

As far as the rest of the enterprises of group "A" are concerned, our approach here remains unchanged: Manufacturing no less than R1 of consumer goods per R1 of the wage fund. We will not retreat from this principle. The vast majority of labor collectives understands this and is working over and above the quota. But not all.

Those for which this indicator constitutes less than 40 kopecks included the Baranovichi plant of the "Belorus-torgmash" Association; the Orsha plant of the "Promshvaymash" Association; the Khoyniki "Salyut" Mechanical Engineering Plant; the Borisov Units Plant, and certain other enterprises. We hope that Comrade Trutnev, deputy chairman of the BSSR Council of Ministers, and the leaders of these and other outfits will recognize their duty to the people and draw the necessary conclusions.

Services. Their realization in 1990 will grow more than 17 percent, and in the five-year plan as a whole, by a factor of 1.9 instead of the planned 1.5. Thus the amount of work on the renovation and construction of housing, auto maintenance and repairs, and public transport and tour services will increase from 20 to 48 percent.

Fuller use will be made to this end of the possibilities of industrial enterprises, construction organizations, and establishments of the nonproductive sphere.

The housing problem. Approximately 400,000 apartments, including more than 100,000 in rural localities, will have been built in the four years. Compared with the 11th Five-Year Plan, the average annual introduction of housing has grown 19 percent, and in rural localities, by a factor of 1.5.

The housing problem is being tackled more actively in Brest, Grodno, Pinsk, Soligorsk, and Mozyr and in Khotimskiy, Molodechnenskiy, Orshanskiy, Pukhovichi, and other rayons. The search for new approaches and the extensive participation of the work force and the population have enabled the people of Brest in the current five-year plan to increase the amount of housing construction by a factor of 1.7. The construction of individual apartment houses from the resources of the population has increased by a factor of 1.5.

The participants in the plenum know what measures are being implemented in the republic for the accelerated development of construction facilities. I will say only that we must cater fully for the need for wall, insulation, and nonmetal materials and carpentry and other products in 1993, and in terms of the rest, by 1995.

Medical services. Some 22 hospitals with 2,200 beds and 36 clinics catering to 10,000 visits per shift, and in the countryside, 90 paramedic-obstetric centers, 20 medical dispensaries, and seven district hospitals will be commissioned in cities and communities in the current year.

The health authorities have been handed over 120 administrative buildings which previously belonged to party, soviet, and business organizations. Premises of the Gomel Gorkom, the information and computer center of the USSR State Bank in Mogilev, the laboratory block of the "Polotskvodstroy" Trust, and others will be refitted as medical establishments.

On the initiative of the republic leadership the biochemical plant being built in Drogichin will be converted into an enterprise for the production of medical preparations and products. It will manufacture 200 million disposable syringes and 500 million needles for them a year. In addition, effective preparations for the treatment of diabetes and cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and other diseases will be manufactured here.

Capacity will be introduced next year for the manufacture of 500,000 disposable syringes at the BSSR Ministry of Local Industry Gomel Plastics Plant also.

This will make it possible not only to fully satisfy the republic's disposable syringe requirement but also to trade in the latter.

The training of dentistry personnel has been expanded. Dental departments have been opened in medical institutes and medical schools. The problem of dental prosthetics in the republic is to have been resolved next year.

Speaking of the development of the social sphere, I would like to add just a few lines. Whereas 1,200 km of intra-farm roads were built in the 11th Five-Year Plan

on an annual average, the plan for 1990 provides for 7,700 km. During the election year 85 percent of national income used in the republic will be channeled into consumption and social development, and the amounts of pensions and benefits for 1.1 million needy people will be increased.

III

Comrades! None of us, I believe, has been surprised that problems of environmental protection have been put in a special section of the platform. I shall not touch on purely ecological issues—the approaches to their solution are clearly outlined in the draft.

I shall focus your attention on what is troubling each inhabitant of the republic. The approximately four post-Chernobyl years have been essentially continuous opposition to the disaster. Each day since the accident has absorbed much human grief and pain, courage and kindness, quest and creation.

As you know, the BSSR Supreme Soviet has approved an official program on this matter and has submitted it to the union authorities. The USSR Supreme Soviet has recommended that the USSR Council of Ministers incorporate it in the all-union program and the plan of the country's economic and social development for the 13th Five-Year Plan as a separate section and support it with financial and material resources. The solution of this question will be monitored by the BCP Central Committee and the Belorussian Government and also the USSR people's deputies from the republic.

The concept contained in the program is very simple and comprehensible to all: There can be no living where it is not possible to obtain clean products from one's yard.

The BCP Central Committee and BSSR Council of Ministers recently determined urgent measures for the resettlement at the start of next year of more than 10,000 persons from localities where the consumption of milk and other local products has been restricted and also of families with children 14 years of age and under, pregnant women, and persons whose residence in this locality is for medical reasons not recommended. The decree provides for compensation for lost property and the solution of housing questions. Benefits for those living in the affected areas are being extended.

We hope that the party committees, local soviets, union, Komsomol [Leninist Communist Youth League], and public organizations and the inhabitants of the republic will do everything necessary for the fulfillment within the established time frame of what has been planned and will render those affected effective assistance.

What is the reason for the fact that the draft platform contains, aside from an environmental section, an additional number of sections which previously have not been reflected in this way in our program documents?

That the problem of national revival has been posed squarely for the first time is not a tribute to fashion. It is the response of the BCP to the restructuring processes, objective regularities in the development of the republic, the character of the Soviet federation, the economy, and culture which are undergoing renovation.

National revival is seen as implementation of the principle of the republic's sovereignty in its political, socio-economic, and cultural aspects. The awakening national self-awareness is demanding clear and precise answers: Who are we, what are our possibilities, and what potential needs to be engaged for an acceleration of socioeconomic transformations and the intellectual and moral process, a strengthening of the friendship and mutual enrichment of the cultures of all nations and nationalities of the USSR and implementation of the principles of Soviet federalism.

Broadly speaking, the whole platform is a program of national revival. We are fully resolved to perfect it, enrich it with experience, and to take account in full measure of the interests of the people of Soviet Belorussia and the country.

A special section of the platform is devoted also to legal policy, which is dictated by a number of circumstances.

First, the need to multiply the republic's contribution to realization of the idea advanced by the 19th All-Union Party Conference of the creation of a socialist law-based state. It will be necessary in the very near future to make appreciable changes to republic legislation governing pensions, financial and tax relations, and local self-management. Civil, labor, housing, and criminal legislation is in need of revision.

Second, it is necessary to ensure undeviating compliance with the law by all organizations, officials, and citizens and seek the dependable protection of people's rights and interests and the development of their democratic liberties.

It has to be mentioned that the process of democratization and the awakening of the sense of civil duty and dignity, which is positive, on the whole, is in places growing into anarchy and permissiveness. Violence, parasitism, and a desire to get rich at others' expense are being cultivated among a certain part of the population.

It should be said with all certainty that work left undone on the part of the law enforcement authorities in ensuring law and order and protecting the citizens' personal and property rights is obvious. Some of the former have lost their ability to react keenly to negative processes, are operating at a low professional level, are permitting unwarranted complacency, and are evaluating the state of affairs uncritically.

No real improvements in the fight against crime are perceived as yet. We should hold to account primarily for this the leaders of law enforcement departments of all levels—from the republic through the rayon—who have

failed to establish the precise interaction of the authorities for upholding order and who are joining their forces inadequately with the party committees and local soviets, the work force and the community.

But is it fair criticizing just the law enforcement authorities? Take just such a form of crime as mercenary encroachments on socialist property and the personal property of the citizens. They constitute two-thirds of all crimes. Some 35,000 various mercenary crimes, losses from which amounted to more than R8 million, have been uncovered this year in the sphere of the economy alone.

The main causes thereof are lax management, the neglected state of the accounting of commodity and material values, inadequate financial and auditing supervision, and the unsatisfactory selection of personnel for materially responsible positions.

It is reasonable to ask the communist leaders of certain ministries and departments, specifically Comrades Petrushkevich and Grishchenkov, why they are not concerning themselves properly with the preservation of socialist property and why stores, warehouses, and cash boxes are not protected against criminal encroachments.

The surge of crime must be dealt an organized rebuff by all of society. And radical measures on the part of the soviets of people's deputies are needed here. Our people should feel secure and safe everywhere—at home, on the street, at the place of work.

Particular features of the current situation also dictated the section "Interaction With the Public Organizations." We cannot fail to see certain qualitative changes which are occurring in the work of the unions. The Komsomol is joining actively in the restructuring processes. It is our duty to ensure the extensive representation of members of a union and Komsomol members in the soviets of all levels and create the conditions for their actual participation in the adoption of responsible political decisions and the implementation of socioeconomic transformations.

Various amateur organizations and movements on the political spectrum have also become a reality of the republic's social and political life. Some of their participants sincerely believe that in working in this association or the other they will accelerate the solution of social problems. They do not always have a clear idea of what needs to be done and how but are actively seeking constructive paths toward democratization and glasnost.

Others, and there are many young people among them, have fallen under the magic influence of pseudo-revolutionary phrase-mongering and caustic calls and slogans and are demanding instant change and an immediate improvement in the state of affairs.

There are also those who to satisfy inordinate claims and ambitions have in fact, while presenting themselves as the sole zealots for the people's happiness, embarked on

a destructive path, the path of separatism, recklessness, and confrontation. In their attempts to achieve their ends they are heeding neither the demands of the law nor morality nor the interests of society.

We are reminded of this also by the bitter experience of the development of certain public movements in Lithuania. Having lined up with the perestroika slogans, they used democracy and glasnost to ignite nationalist passions, disunite the people, discredit socialism, and introduce a separatist mood in people's minds.

It is the duty of the party committees and organizations and the duty of each communist to emphatically uphold socialist ideals and cogently and patiently perform explanatory work with people who have gone astray in this complex situation.

We also need to open people's eyes in uncompromising and Bolshevik manner to the true aims of certain leaders of the informal movements. They are attempting openly today to destabilize the situation and create in the work force an atmosphere of hopelessness, uncertainty, apathy, and social tension.

We declare that we will continue to condemn and reject all forces whose activity is aimed at a weakening of the socialist system, disorganizes the economy, disturbs public order and legality, and erodes spirituality and morality.

Of course, what has been said does not mean that we lack a readiness and desire to interact with the organizations and movements fighting for perestroika, democratization, and glasnost on the basis of the affirmation and development of socialist values. These are our fundamental positions reflected in the draft platform also.

The policy of the BCP is one of constructive and polite dialogue with all honest people who are participating together with the people of the republic in the solution of its problems, large and small.

We are firmly convinced that the preparations for the elections should contribute not to division, not to increased disagreements, and not to the emphasizing of contradictions but to the unification of all organizations and movements in the struggle for the accomplishment of the tasks confronting the republic.

IV

Comrades! You have the draft platform at hand, and this spares me the need to analyze its contents in more detail. The obkoms [oblast party committees], gorkoms [city party committees], and raykoms [rayon party committees] have adopted their election platforms. But these documents will not get the job done of their own accord. These are only the points of departure and reference points for purposeful activity in the masses.

We need to convey the essence of them to the electorate and help it get its bearings in the current complex situation. Members and candidates of the BCP Central

Committee and members of the BCP Auditing Commission are called on to head and organize this work. It would be correct, I believe, were the leaders of ministries and departments and party and soviet authorities, communists working in trade union and Komsomol organizations, and all our activists to participate actively in explaining the party platform.

Currents which, taking cover behind the slogans of perestroika and speculating on the difficulties and shortcomings, are attempting to mold in the population the opinion as to the incapacity and reluctance of the party and soviet authorities and their personnel to solve urgent problems have emerged in the republic.

In attacking the CPSU and its local authorities they are endeavoring to weaken the integrating power of society in the pivotal period of perestroika, to counterpose the party to the people, and ultimately to stir up in the work force confusion and instability.

However difficult things have been for the party, it has never been in need of attorneys. But today, all are in need of the truth. And if we look truth in the eye, there are things that have to be said.

Each of us understands fully how one force is overturned and another installed. And we all know the political price of the inflaming of passions around the CPSU.

Referring to the distortions in the building of socialism, some people would like to discredit it in order to nudge us toward a different choice. The same trick is being played with the party also. We are all familiar with the statements to the effect that it has, allegedly, accomplished its mission—ignited society “from above”—and that it should now stand aside and not prevent it being ignited “from below”.

But perestroika does not mean the burning down of all previous edifices or the destruction of all existing structures, for which the devotees of pseudo-revolutionary phrases at mass meetings and gatherings and in statements are continually calling.

It is a creative process, in which not one positive acquisition of universal and domestic experience is cast aside and in which the broadening of freedoms and the development of democracy and glasnost are accompanied by a growth of civic responsibility and a solicitous attitude toward socialist values.

Labor and morality are the basis of perestroika. Without labor and morality man cannot be emancipated. And morality presupposes, furthermore, a society professing the interests of the people, while labor presupposes the necessary organization and control of the labor process.

If morality and responsibility and labor and its efficiency and its universality are not linked in a common inseparable chain, demagoguery and social parasitism will thrive.

Our ideal is a collective of individuals, and not a symbiosis of the featureless. Consequently, our principle

cannot be mutually exclusive efforts: At sixes and sevens. And the lens which gathers all rays and all colors in a single beam is socialism. And the force which is today capable of developing the creative potential of the people and solving exacerbated problems is the Communist Party.

The fate of perestroika lies in the unity of the CPSU. It would be correct, I believe, were we today to express our attitude toward the documents of the special CPSU Central Committee plenum.

The communists of Soviet Belorussia encountered sorrowfully the news of the split which occurred in the ranks of the Lithuanian comrades and of the withdrawal of the Lithuanian Communist Party from the CPSU. Our peoples and our party organizations have for many years been linked by ties of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance. Together, hand in hand, in the course of the building of the socialist society we grasped the truth, which is at first sight banal, but which has been proven by practice time and again: The unification of people of different nationalities and the unity of will and action of the communists help overcome all difficulties.

Today, when the country is at a pivotal stage of perestroika, the value of this truth increases a hundredfold.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum reached the conclusion—and we share it fully—that the 20th Lithuanian Communist Party Congress took a step which goes beyond the framework of intra-party relations. A blow has essentially been struck at the party, which developed perestroika and which is now surmounting immense difficulties, and a blow has been struck at our plans for the renewal of society on the basis of the preservation and development of socialist values and in a spirit of humanism and democracy.

We believe that Lithuania's communists will find within themselves the forces and courage to soberly evaluate what has happened, take the path of realism, rid themselves of separatist aspirations, and close ranks on the Leninist principles of the organizational and political unity of the CPSU.

Just as socialism has yet to reveal its main potential, so has the party. And it is the communists who are called on to do this, of course. You will already have noticed that the content of the section of the platform “Democratization and Perestroika of Intra-Party Life” is geared to this.

Assuming before the people of the republic a commitment pertaining to practical fulfillment of the program, the BCP will seek realization of the humane goals of perestroika in all its organizing and political work. In action, in struggle, and in their active work with people the communists will win their right to be the moral and political vanguard of society.

We cannot agree with those who are urging subordination of the party to the soviets. Acting thus would mean

reproducing the old outline of the relations of the party and state authorities, the sole difference being that they would have changed places. The meaning of perestroika in the party, however, is to make it an effective political and ideological force operating within the framework of the USSR Constitution.

Nor can the communists be indifferent to the fact that voices have been heard increasingly often and importunately lately to the effect that virtually all the troubles in the country stem from the one-party nature of our system. What may be said about this?

World experience testifies that a multiparty system and true democracy are far from synonymous concepts. Were this so, it would be very simple to get our bearings when it came to deciding which state was democratic, and which, not very democratic. For instance, in a country that has three parties, there is democracy. But a neighbor has nine, it, consequently, has precisely three times as much democracy.

On the other hand, is there with us another social force capable of assuming the fullness of responsibility for the future of the state? In the current complex state of perestroika the interests of the consolidation of society dictate the expediency of the preservation precisely of the one-party system.

It is noticeable today even that with the start of the election campaign the blackening of the party was resumed with new vigor. Slander, calumny, the juggling of facts—everything is being put to use to remove the CPSU from the political arena.

While declaring in every nook and cranny the party's incapacity for coping with the situation, its abusers are assiduously "helping" change this situation: conducting mass meetings and demonstrations, organizing strikes, calling for confrontation with the central and local authorities, and harping on incessantly from high platforms about the collapse of the economy, the degradation of the spiritual sphere, and the destruction of morality.

A person listening to such insinuations involuntarily throws up his hands: Our society, they say, is at the bottom of a deep abyss and has no hope of climbing out of it.

Is not this the ultimate mission of the separatist-extremist elements and other opponents of perestroika?

We need to cogently convince people that the main aim of perestroika, which was initiated by the CPSU and which is being implemented under its leadership, is the building of humane socialism and a social and political system whereby both the economy and the social sphere and the entire political mechanism are turned toward man in order that man become not the means but the end of all our transformations.

It is necessary to determine specific measures of party-political support for the election campaign in the party

committees and primary party organizations with regard for the alignment of social forces and the situation in this locality and labor collective or the other.

The party committees and organizations need to clearly anticipate each stage thereof, constantly keep their finger on the pulse of life, respond promptly to changes in public opinion, and not lose the initiative.

People are expecting much from the new soviets. The main thing is that the working person must be the sovereign master in his outfit, his city, his republic, and in society and be confident that the people's deputies will act for the sake of the well-being of everyone and for the sake of a rise in the well-being of the whole people.

It is for this reason that the BCP Central Committee sees as its task ensuring that the elections be held in a democratic, open atmosphere and that people be nominated everywhere from the heart of the nation who are profoundly devoted to socialism, gifted and involved, competent and energetic, passionately interested in an improvement in matters in all walks of life, have precise ideological and civic positions, are conversant with the population's needs and requirements, know how to tie in the interests of the electorate with nationwide interests, and are capable of acting in state-minded fashion, responsibly and expansively.

It is very important that highly moral, modest, honest, and decent people—those in whom word is not at variance with deed and who never deviate from the laws and high moral principles—become the future elect.

Demagogy, recklessness, and speculation on the difficulties of the transition period and the republic's sore points may manifest themselves and group arrogance and a variety of politicking self-seekers and extremists prepared to make irresponsible promises and pushing the people of the republic toward the abyss of isolation and self-destruction may make themselves known in the course of the elections. Those who would like to apply the brakes to our movement on the path of renewal and attempt to turn back time could appear also.

The experience of the past elections reminds us that there will be contestants for deputy mandates who, aside from outwardly attractive slogans and endeavors to smash the authorities, have nothing to show. There will also be those who see the election campaign as a method of satisfying their egotistical ambitions.

Let us be objective: Certain party organizations in the past elections did insufficient work among the electorate, as a result of which many voters believed the demagogues and their empty promises. The communists frequently looked on impartially at the defamation, whooping, shameless slander, and labeling of honorable comrades. This must not be repeated.

The considerably changed nature of the election campaign and the competition in the struggle for the votes of the electorate require changes to be made to the tactics of

the party organizations. Those that are operating according to the principle of several candidates per electoral okrug, no less, say, than three, whom the party organization and the working people support, are acting correctly. These candidates could be communists, Komsomol members, and nonparty people. The main criterion here is participation, not in word but in deed, in the renewal of society, devotion to socialist values, and people's respect. Such tactics will make it possible at the requisite moment to increase support precisely for the candidate with the highest rating.

The activity of the canvassing activists is in need of change also. The main task of the canvassers, youth groups, and agents is canvassing for the candidates for deputy and helping them, the workers and kolkhoz members particularly, get the essence of their election programs and the BCP Program across to the electorate.

Work at the place of residence requires considerable improvement. Whereas a party organization functions at an enterprise and in an establishment and a person circulates among his work comrades daily and has an opportunity to obtain the necessary information, outside of the work force he is frequently left alone with his own difficulties and everyday problems and the questions troubling him.

Some people rely on the canvasser. But he checks the name on the lists, and with this considers his mission accomplished. And there is also here a certain phrasemonger who is capable of deceiving, leading astray, and persuading people that all troubles will vanish at a stroke unless they vote for a representative of the party. We all need to draw the conclusions from this. The purpose of stepping up work at the place of residence is to reach every home, every family, every voter.

The mass media should become active participants in the election campaign. They are called upon to cover it calmly, objectively, and scrupulously and ensure equal conditions for the candidates for deputy in the election struggle and a comparison of their programs on the most democratic basis.

The press, radio, and television should prompt people to creative action for the renewal of all aspects of our life and show both the new experience of work and the actual results of perestroika and all that is hampering the pace and efficiency of the transformations.

An important task of theirs is the comprehensive explanation of the multitude of decisions and laws which is currently entering society. We need to proceed here from the fact that the press belongs to society and should uphold the principles by which it lives. Neither a juggling of facts nor the publication of dubious information nor the use of this press organ or the other for antisocial inflammatory purposes are permissible.

In a word, comrades, everyone—the party, trade union and Komsomol organizations, and the media—have

substantial work to do to ensure that the election campaign be conducted well. The role of those working in the soviet authorities is great here also.

In the name of forming a corps of deputies capable of ensuring a decisive acceleration of perestroika, enhancing the public well-being, and uniting Soviet people we may stint on neither effort nor time.

This, I believe, is how it will be.

I invite you to constructive debate.

Ukraine Trade Unions: Price Hikes Unreasonable

LD0102182990 Moscow TASS in English 1759 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Kiev February 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya:

The Ukrainian trade unions have protested the Soviet Government's decision to increase cargo transportation rates and electric energy and diesel fuel wholesale prices, it was said at a briefing held at the Ukrainian Council of Trade Unions today.

The text of a message to Soviet Prime Minister Nikolay Ryzhkov from Trade Union Council Chairman Vitaliy Sologub was read out at the briefing. Many work collectives, now approaching the republican trade union organs, demand that the decision be repealed or suspended, the message says.

It is noted that the changes will sharply worsen the economic state of enterprises and associations and put many work collectives in a bad predicament.

The republican metallurgical enterprises alone will earn over 500 million roubles less in profits, it was noted at the meeting with journalists. Workers' wages will go down by 30-100 roubles. Due to a lack of funds, enterprises will be compelled to reduce and in a number of cases suspend the construction of housing as well as cultural and every day service establishments. They will have to deny workers the benefits they have previously received.

Popular discontent is rising and might lead to mass labour conflicts. Some work collectives have refused to conclude collective bargaining agreements with the administration for 1990.

The Ukrainian Council of Trade Unions therefore insists that the union government either suspend its decision or remedy the rates of deductions from profits to the state budget for enterprises sustaining losses.

At the briefing it was noted that the trade union council's actions were prompted by the need to comply with its main mission—to protect the interests of the working people and to do the utmost to ensure that their living standards do not go down. The government's decision to increase rates and wholesale prices now that the

economy is being re-oriented to social needs has been qualified as "unreasonable."

Ukrainian Politburo Meets on Ethnic Problem

LD0102212390 Kiev in Ukrainian to North America
2200 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The Central Committee Politburo of the Communist Party of the Ukraine has considered at its session the question of primary tasks for realization of the CPSU platform on the nationalities policy of the party under present-day conditions. The grass-roots organizations are being recommended to deepen studies of the history of interethnic relations and promote the solution of the interethnic problems on a democratic basis in close cooperation with the bodies of state power. The session participants also supported the idea of a further elaboration of the laws concerning the regulation of the interethnic problems in the Ukraine.

The session also discussed the need for in-depth study of certain pages of the communist party of Ukraine history in the 1930's, 1940's, and early 1950's in order to arrive at an objective evaluation of those years, and famine in our republic in 1932-33, as well as the publication of archive materials relating to it.

Union of Working People Set Up in Ukraine

LD0102214190 Kiev in Ukrainian to North America
2200 GMT 31 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Labor collectives of the Ukraine and many citizens are showing a willingness to join the Union of Working People of the Ukraine for Socialist Restructuring. Our correspondent, Serhiy Hubin, decided to find out what this informal organization, which is being formed now, is to stand for. He met with one of its organizers, Albert Provoylin, an economist from Kiev. He said:

[Begin recording] [Provoylin] Our first task will be to defend the interests of the working people. Had they been defended sufficiently enough, then there would be no need to create such an association. [passage omitted]

Let me cite the following figures. At present, 86 percent of the population live in poverty. People with a medium income amount to slightly more than 11 percent, and the rich only 2.3 percent. These differentials have not prevailed during the whole period of Soviet power. They have existed only during the last 25 years.

[Hubin] Will your activities not become a replica of those pursued by numerous informal associations, especially Rukh?

[Provoylin] No. I don't think so. I don't think that we shall oppose Rukh in the nationality sphere. However, certain frictions with Rukh will emerge. Take Rukh's economic program: It advocates the privatization of the Soviet economy. We are in favor of prioritizing the socialist way of production. Therefore, in our view, the

demand of equality between various forms of property ownership is not correct. [end recording]

Situation Termed 'Uneasy' in Moldavia

LD0102184990 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[From "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] And now about the situation in Moldavia, where once again it has become uneasy.

[Correspondent I. Petkov, identified by caption] In Kishinev devotees of street democracy using inflammatory slogans have again carried out an attack on a police station here, near the train station. They provoke clashes with the city's inhabitants. But in Tiraspol and Rybnitsa, referendums have been held on the autonomy of their territories. New movements and clubs make their appearance almost every week—and they are quite aggressive, it was noted at an emergency session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium on the aggravation of the social and political situation in the republic. [Video shows clips of city center gardens; the train station in Kishinev; passers-by outside the Intourist hotel in Kishinev]

Taking part in the work of the Presidium were the leaders of public movements. [Video shows participants in session seated at desks in large room; cuts to show M.I. Snegur, chairman of the Moldavian Supreme Soviet Presidium, being interviewed by Petkov]

[Snegur] Individual movements are allowing violations of the law—I will put it that way—on issues concerning the holding of all kinds of referendums, on issues concerning the holding of other unsanctioned functions and parades, and so on. The point in the decision where we wrote about supervision, about stepping up supervision by the Council of Ministers of the activity of registered public movements is absolutely in keeping with the law, and note, too, the fact that we have also placed the responsibility for unsanctioned action on the leaders of these movements.

[Petkov] Yes, people in Moldavia are already demanding directly that this responsibility be raised.

[Snegur] Unfortunately not all of our steps are effective, but nevertheless I consider that we can and that we are under an obligation to ensure calm in the republic and create conditions for the working people and the inhabitants of the rural localities for their fruitful work.

Moldavian Political Situation Deteriorating

PM0102203190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
2 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 2

[Eduard Kondratov reports from Kishinev under general rubric: "Direct Line. Own Correspondents at Teletprinter": "At Variance With Republic Constitution"]

[Text] An emergency session of the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] Supreme Soviet Presidium was held Wednesday [31 January]. It was necessitated by the events of the past few days which have led to a sharp deterioration of the sociopolitical situation in the republic. In the capital it was an unauthorized march by columns of informals through the streets of Kishinev which was accompanied by hooligan excesses, beatings up of passersby, and the chanting of nationalist slogans. In Tiraspol an "autonomy" referendum was held—in deliberate violation of the Moldavian SSR Constitution and decisions of its supreme authority. In Chadyr-Lunga Gagauz movement activists mounted a picket at the party rayon committee building lasting many hours and organized rallies and motorcades demanding that a Gagauz Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic be created forthwith....

Interethnic confrontation is becoming more and more hard line and dangerous. Categorical attitudes, unwillingness to consider consequences, people's belief in their own impunity, and sometimes the deliberate provocation of conflicts have become the characteristic features of the activities of certain social formations. Their leaders have succumbed to the belief that rally-type democracy and strong-arm pressure triumph over the law easily and every time.

The result is a nervous, tense atmosphere throughout Moldavia. People have no faith in the future. The example of Transcaucasia is before everyone's eyes.

Inviting the leaders of mass social formations to its session, the Moldavian Supreme Soviet Presidium set itself and them the aim of elaborating, in a joint effort, a common platform to be shared by all and used to consolidate the healthy forces of the people's movements and to point them in the direction of positive actions. However, achieving any kind of mutual understanding proved most difficult. Here, too, the habit of listening only to themselves and the blind conviction that those who think differently are to blame for all the troubles have let down most of the leaders of the social movements, unions, and societies. The leaders of the Moldavian People's Front, the Mateyevich Club, and the Stephen the Great Society claimed that the main cause of interethnic tensions are last year's strikes and the present referendum in Tiraspol which have outraged all Moldavians. They have demanded that the "subversive organization"—the United Council of Labor Collectives [OSTK]—be disbanded, and they have given assurances of their desire to have friendly relations with all peoples and to conduct a purely peace-loving policy.

This drew sharp objections from the leaders of the OSTK, the Union of Working People of Moldavia, the "Yedinstvo" international movement, and the "Gagauz Khalky" movement. The sense of total license displayed by the extremists, the pitting of the "indigenous" population against the "newcomers," articles in the law on

languages perceived as discriminatory by the Russian-speaking population, and the continuing public humiliation of the dignity of the Gagauz people—this, in their opinion, is the true source of interethnic confrontation which is preventing people from living and working in peace.

The hours ticked by at the session, and it seemed that its participants would not be able to agree on anything in the foreseeable future. Only the speech delivered by I. Zabunov, from the Bulgarian "Vozrozhdeniye" ["Rebirth"] society, provided a glimmer of hope. This was because the platform had been taken by a man who had set himself the aim of augmenting the assets of his own people and their culture and language without opposing anyone's aspirations, interests, or views with his own.

Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium members seized on this very humane undertaking. A. Simashkevich, a physicist; Zh. Donskaya, a spinning factory worker; A. Kara, tractor driver team leader; I. Chobanu, the writer; V. Vinebryacha, a telephonist; and I. Morar, a foundry worker—each interpreted the thoughts of the Bulgarian patriot in their own way. But essentially they all spoke about the same thing, about what concerns us most today: Namely that it is points of contact rather than differences that we must seek today and that it would be impermissible and criminal to allow a repetition of the tragic Karabakh and Baku situations. Another point—that perestroika has no future unless society respects its own laws. "We cannot allow the diktat of the administrative edict to be replaced by 'diktat from below'—P. Luchinskiy, first secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party Central Committee, said when addressing the session. "The leaders of the social movements must accept full responsibility for the consequences of their actions."

The Moldavian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium declared the referendum in Tiraspol at variance with the Constitution of the republic and therefore invalid. The activities of the forces which are destabilizing the situation have been denounced. It was decided to declare a 6-month moratorium on all political events which are likely to evoke interethnic strife. A resolute struggle will be waged against unauthorized rallies and marches. It is planned to gather the leaders of all social movements for "roundtable" discussions in the near future and to lead them toward the adoption of constructive decisions.

Statement on Moscow Anti-Semitic Incident

LD0102235190 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1630 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] We present for your attention a statement by the Secretariat of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public. It says in particular:

There have been many messages from Soviet citizens, letters, and telephone calls to the secretariat of the committee in recent days filled with indignation, alarm, and pain.

The anti-semitic incident organized by Astashvili-Smirnov grouping on 18 January in Moscow's Central House of Literary People, tried the limits of patience. If matters go as far as open calls for reprisals against non-Russians [nad inorodtsami], this means that the healthy forces in society are not coping with the situation. There is no justification for this. The fact that one and the same grouping over a long period has been committing anti-semitic provocations in the capital of our homeland with impunity is inexplicable. At present one thing is evident: A crude provocation was perpetrated in order to stir up national discord, and no matter who its initiator was, he must be identified and deservedly punished.

A political program of the Union for National-Proportional Representation [Soyuz za Natsionalno-Proportionalnoye Predstavitelstvo] is being circulated in Moscow, signed, allegedly, by the Moscow worker Smirnov-Astashvili. This document is, frankly, an anti-semitic manifesto, and they are getting away with it. The ideological inspiration for such groupings comes from some people with academic degrees who regard themselves as true strugglers against a Zionist-Masonic plot, a typical representative of whom is Yevseyev, a senior research assistant at the USSR Academy of Sciences Philosophy Institute.

With their press articles they not only legalize anti-semitic theses, but at the same time fulfil another rather important function—in a planned manner they discredit the very idea of an objective criticism of Zionism. We call on all honorable people, the statement says, to assess the situation in an all-round way and to give the most unrelenting attention to those who try to play on our national feelings. We think that each people should give priority to calling their own extremists to order. It is time to give the just rewards both to those who form the Zionist structures and those who knock together anti-semitic organizations. The USSR Procuracy should say its lofty word on this subject.

We appeal to the Russian and Jewish creative intelligentsia to refrain from pronouncements and publications that offend people's national feelings. It is time to recognize that each people has its own spiritual and moral values which it is impermissible for anyone to offend.

Moscow Jewish Congress Discussed

PM0102131990 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 30 Jan 90 First Edition p 4

[Interview with Ye.S. Yevseyev, senior scientific associate of USSR Academy of Sciences Philosophy Institute, by correspondent Captain 3d Rank A. Orlov under rubric "Viewpoint": "Without Positions of Silence";

date, place not given; first two paragraphs are KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] "KRASNAYA ZVEZDA," reader V. Yudin writes the editors, "was one of the newspapers to provide information on the congress of USSR Jewish organizations and communities held in Moscow in December. I would like to learn more about that event, particularly as it was attended by representatives of the World Zionist Organization...." Readers L. Kunduk, V. Lezinskaya, A. Prokopyev, and others also ask us to comment on the congress proceedings.

Yevgeniy Semenovich Yevseyev, senior scientific associate of the USSR Academy of Sciences Philosophy Institute and author of many books on Zionism, agreed to do this.

[Orlov] Yevgeniy Semenovich, letters and calls to the editorial office following the publication of information on the congress of USSR Jewish organizations and communities attest that there are many very different opinions of it. You have familiarized yourself with the letters, among which there are extreme views. What is your attitude to this?

[Yevseyev] Let us first define our positions. I am a supporter of the political formula: "Zionism is racism and a variety of fascism." This, incidentally, is what is written in the Soviet Military Encyclopedia. UN Resolution 3379 states: "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination." My attention was drawn to those letters which speak of the congress as an event "outside ideology." Why, they say, should people of one nationality not gather together to discuss their problems? I have nothing against that. Incidentally, people did gather—so everything is OK here from the viewpoint of democracy. Only it turned out that many people gathered in order to call for religious and racial aloofness, to remind people "of the chosen nature of the Jewish nation," to impart its "exclusive role in the world"...

Readers probably need to know that the congress was attended by more than 100 foreign citizens from the United States, Canada, France, Britain, and also Israel, with which we do not have diplomatic relations. On glancing at Zionist foreign and also local illegal publications, you can easily see for yourself that the Moscow congress is called a Zionist congress. Addressing it, World Zionist Organization President S. Dinitz called it merely "a Zionist forum of Soviet Jews." And, alas, not one of the participants representing USSR Jewish organizations and communities objected to that...

[Orlov] But the congress was sanctioned not as a Zionist one...

[Yevseyev] Undoubtedly. Attempts were made there to speak about the real problems of the country and of perestroika, but... Everything was determined by the composition of the participants. The almost total lack of conflict stemmed from the choice of delegates. Three from Kharkov spoke, for example. Who were they? A

certain Dzhadan, propagandist for the illegal Zionist group "Irgun Zioni"; Falkovich, who has worked as a trainee in Israel; and Rapoport, who has applied to emigrate from the USSR. Their speeches boiled down to one thing: Zionism is nothing more than "a trait of national self-expression." Here, incidentally, the question of repealing UN Resolution 3379 was also raised. While totally ignoring the crimes of the Israeli military.

[Orlov] The Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public [AZCSP] exists in our country. Did it foresee such a "filling" for the congress?

[Yevseyev] I have before me the brochure "Perestroyka and the Jewish Question," published by the AZCSP. It contains materials on the activities of Zionist leaders. The committee foresaw the possibility of the "Zionization" of the congress. It is only to be regretted that the brochure did not for some reason receive wide distribution. Moreover, no one from the AZCSP attended the congress. Incidentally, members of that committee, including people such as twice Hero of the Soviet Union Colonel General D. Dragunskiy, retired, are coming under considerable pressure. Here are the words of I. Libir [name as transliterated], vice president of the World Jewish Congress: "Jews must treat the AZCSP in just the same way as supporters of perestroyka treat unrepentant supporters of Zhdanov and Stalin." This was, as we see, an attempt to compromise this committee.

[Orlov] The documents adopted at the congress are before you. They include a resolution on anti-Semitism. There is a lot of talk and many articles about this today. How widespread, in your opinion, is this phenomenon in society?

[Yevseyev] In order to speak about this, it is necessary first to specify what people understand by anti-Semitism. From the viewpoint of the ideology of Zionism anti-Semitism is any criticism of Zionism. And even criticism of, let us say, Kaganovich or Yagoda...

[Orlov] So, in this conversation we could appear as anti-Semites?

[Yevseyev] This is not ruled out in some people's eyes. Anyone who, let us say, censures Israel for its crimes in the land of Palestine risks appearing precisely as an anti-Semite. Although this is not so. It is a matter of the term itself. Let us recall who the Semites are. They are, above all, the 200 million Arabs against whom Israel (with a population of 3.5 million) is waging aggression. That is real anti-Semitism, existing as a practical policy.

[Orlov] And in our country, on an everyday level?

[Yevseyev] What people mean in this case, as a rule, is "Pamyat," is it not? Let us point out that extremism of whatever kind is condemned in our country. As regards "Pamyat" as an informal movement, of which there are many now, I believe it is very heterogeneous. The majority there advocate precisely renouncing extremes.

So it would be more logical to separate the wheat from the chaff. And if something is to be condemned, let it be only what is worthy of condemnation...

[Orlov] I would like our discussion of very complex questions, in which particular delicacy is needed, as in all interethnic questions, not to offend anyone's national dignity.

[Yevseyev] I understand you. I too count on this.

Special Migrant Service Formed in Moscow

PM0102161190 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
1 Feb 90 Morning Edition p3

[Interview with V. Buynovskiy, deputy chairman of USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems, by own correspondent R. Ignatyev under rubric "From Competent Sources": "Migration Service To Be Formed"—date, place unspecified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] A special subdivision responsible for citizens' migration and resettlement has been formed—the first in the country. Our correspondent talked about this with V. Buynovskiy, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems.

[Ignatyev] Viktor Mikhaylovich, what has prompted the appearance of this organization, so unusual for the Soviet Union?

[Buynovskiy] This subdivision has been on the cards for some time now. Natural disasters and large-scale accidents which have happened in our country recently have brought to light problems hitherto unknown to us. I am mainly referring to the large-scale resettlement of people from one locality to another. We found ourselves facing this problem after the tragedy in Chernobyl and the earthquake in Armenia, for example. Then there is also the very serious problem of people being forced to migrate in connection with the complication of interethnic relations in a number of regions of the country. Refugees, as you call them, have appeared. There is no point in hiding it: There are now more than 500,000 of them in the Soviet Union. They are Meskhetian Turks, Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and people of other nationalities. Naturally, they need help. That is why it has been decided to set up the Migration and Resettlement Administration under the USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Problems.

[Ignatyev] What will be the specific responsibilities of this subdivision?

[Buynovskiy] Its main responsibilities will be to organize a register of people who, by force of special circumstances, are compelled to leave their place of permanent domicile, to give them material assistance, and to endeavor to find them employment. I would like to stress that the new administration will be concerned solely with citizens who are forced migrants. After all, the majority of people leave their homes of their own free

will. That is a perfectly natural phenomenon. But sometimes the situation develops in such a way that, for one reason or another, a person can no longer remain in the place where he was born and has lived for many years. That is what is happening now in Azerbaijan and Armenia. Thousands of families are leaving their homes because of interethnic discord. Many are coming straight to Moscow, although they have no friends or relatives here.

[Ignatyev] Is the newly formed administration offering them any assistance?

[Buynovskiy] Yes. Special staffs are in operation in Moscow, where refugees can register. One of them is situated at 16, Chernyshevskiy Street and the other is housed in the reception premises of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic Supreme Soviet Presidium. After the necessary documents have been completed, each migrant is given an allowance of R100, irrespective of whether he is a child or an adult. Moreover, provision has also been made for the allocation of other funds: Up to R200 to buy clothing and footwear. This money is being taken from the USSR Council of Ministers' reserve fund.

[Ignatyev] How many refugees have registered so far and where are they being housed?

[Buynovskiy] If we take the figures for Moscow alone, more than 20,000 migrants have registered to date. Of these, some 1,500 have been placed in Moscow hotels and hostels. Some people have been settled at leisure centers and sanatoria outside Moscow.

Although the situation has now stabilized and the flood of refugees has eased off, there is still plenty of work to do. The problem is that most of the migrants want to stay only in Moscow. For example, some 300 Armenians were recently flown from Krasnovodsk to Yerevan. But they demanded to be taken to Moscow. So they were given free tickets and flown to Vnukovo Airport in the capital. But we were unable to find room for them in Moscow and so, immediately on their arrival, we offered them somewhere in the Moscow region instead. But they refused and staged a 48-hour sit-in on the aircraft, insisting that their demands be met. But in the end they agreed to our proposal. We are encountering a considerable number of difficulties like this in our work at the moment.

[Ignatyev] What is going to happen to the migrants?

[Buynovskiy] Of course, the measures we are taking are emergency measures. But, immediately on registration, we establish the profession of the new arrivals. We then compile lists of migrants according to the type of work they do. We send these documents to the appropriate ministries and departments for them to suggest the choice of work available. If people are in agreement, permanent or temporary accommodations are given to them in the region concerned and all the necessary

conditions created for them. Anyone who wishes may return to their home which they were forced to leave.

[Ignatyev] Are there any official documents on migrants?

[Buynovskiy] Not yet, unfortunately. After all, until now no one in our country has ever made a study of migrants. We are currently working on a draft law on regulating issues connected with the forced migration of Soviet citizens within the territory of the Soviet Union. It defines the rights and responsibilities of migrants and also touches on a number of other problems. We have submitted this draft to the USSR Council of Ministers. We are now awaiting its decision. At the same time, there is an urgent need to create a material base for our migration service and form local branches.

Kharkov Illegal Knitwear Manufacturers Arrested

*LD2901225490 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 29 Jan 90*

[From "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] USSR Procuracy bodies have completed investigations regarding a large group of plunderers and bribe-takers who have been at work for a long time in Kharkov. The investigation established that at a number of studios and workshops of a factory making and repairing garments, the mass manufacture of unaccounted-for valuable knitted garments was carried out for bribes. More than 100 ringleaders and other persons who occupied senior positions face charges. Procuracy investigators took from the accused money, gold items, and other valuables acquired by criminal means valued at almost R6 million. Thirty-nine cars many of which were obtained as bribes, were also confiscated.

PRAVDA Report on Arrests

*PM0102130390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
30 Jan 90 Second Edition p 6*

[Unattributed report: "At USSR Prosecutor's Office"]

[Text] Prosecutor's Office organs have completed their investigation into a large group of embezzlers and bribe-takers who had long operated in Kharkov.

The investigation established that a number of studios and workshops at the city's tailoring and clothing repair factories had secretly manufactured massive amounts of expensive sewn goods out of knitted fabric obtained by bribes.

With large sums of embezzled state funds, the embezzlers bribed many officials at departmental, supply, sales, auditing, and law enforcement organs to obtain raw materials to help in organizing output, and to ensure secure conditions for the long-term embezzlement of state property.

Legal proceedings have been instituted against more than 100 leaders and other officials who held responsible positions. Among those indicted for bribery are the

chiefs of the Kharkov Oblast Consumer Services Administration, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] State Committee for Material and Technical Supply Oblast Sales Administration, the chief auditor at the Ukrainian SSR Finance Ministry's Auditing Administration for Kharkov Oblast, the deputy director of the Gorlovka Knitted Fabric Factory in Donetsk Oblast, the senior auditor of the Ukrainian and others.

The Prosecutor's Office investigators confiscated money, gold goods, and other ill-gotten valuables totaling almost R6 million. Some 39 cars were recorded, many of which were obtained as bribes.

Joint KGB, MVD Efforts Against Crime

90UN0766A Moscow *RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA*
in Russian 25 Jan 90 p 2

[Interview with I. Fedoseyev, chief of Irkutsk Oblast KGB Administration, by SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH correspondent Yu. Udodenko: "KGB Against Mafia"; place, date not given—first two paragraphs are RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA introduction]

[Text] Irkutsk—At the Second Congress of USSR People's Deputies V. Bakatin, minister of internal affairs of the USSR, delivered the report "Stepping Up the Fight Against Organized Crime". Somewhat earlier we had acknowledged that organized crime did in fact exist. We heard in the report that the law enforcement authorities, the procuracy, and the KGB are joining efforts in fighting this evil.

The new orientation in the work of the KGB is discussed by Yu. Udodenko, correspondent of the oblast paper SOVETSKAYA MOLODEZH, and I. Fedoseyev, chief of the Irkutsk Oblast KGB Administration.

[Udodenko] In recent years the KGB has begun to perform work, let us put it this way, that is uncharacteristic. The struggle against gangsterism and corruption in the highest echelons of power has all of a sudden become a matter of state security. What has brought this about? Perhaps the fact that the international situation has stabilized and that there are not enough spies for your employees? Or is it a question of the fact that the police are no longer capable of controlling the situation?

[Fedoseyev] I would like to make things clear. It is not in recent years that we have been performing "uncharacteristic work," just in the last year. Actual assistance to the internal affairs authorities has now become our concern also. There are several reasons for this, I believe. First, counterintelligence work methods are needed to combat groupings which are well organized for violence and robbery. Second, our homemade mafiosi are seeking an outlet abroad, where they are used by special services—and this is purely our field of concern. Further, the state security authorities are better protected against corruption than other state structures. Remember the words of deceased Academician Sakharov: "...It is the KGB which, thanks to its elite character, is almost the

sole force not touched by corruption." Finally, we should recognize that crime also influences the political situation in the country, that is, affects state security.

[Udodenko] How long since did contacts emerge between your department and the Irkutsk Oblispolkom [Oblast Soviet Executive Committee] Internal Affairs Administration? What assistance is the state security authorities rendering the police? If possible, Ivan Vasilyevich, please give us some examples of such practical cooperation.

[Fedoseyev] There has always been the interaction about which you speak. And I greatly value the trust which has built up in our work. We make available to the Criminal Investigation Department and the Department for Combating the Embezzlement of Socialist Property and Profiteering our operational capabilities for the most serious cases. Last year this assistance increased considerably. We are currently working in conjunction with the Internal Affairs Department in respect to several groups which have chosen as the sphere of criminal activity production and the export outside of the oblast of certain types of products traditional for Siberia. It is for understandable reasons still too early to talk about results.

In October 1989 the KGB Administration Ust-Ilim City Department received information about a group of extortionists. They were arrested by our boys, together with the police, but the criminals had evidently had some kind of suspicions. They had called the KGB City Department and reported that explosives had been laid beneath a house on Chaykovskaya Street. Convinced that our officers would inspect the said house thoroughly, the gangsters calmly set off to pluck and clean their victims. But an ambush was waiting for them, and they were all caught red-handed.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that racketeers live as parasites on their victims' fear. I do not know of a single instance of a person turning for help in such a case to the police or the KGB not receiving protection.

[Udodenko] V. Bakatin's report said that KGB-MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] coordinating councils had been set up and were functioning locally, that an exchange of information was being organized and so forth. Has such a council been formed in our oblast?

[Fedoseyev] Yes, there is such a body. Operating efficiently would be impossible without it. Imagine the confusion there would be were the Criminal Investigation Department to begin to work on a criminal group, not knowing that it was being dealt with simultaneously by the KGB? The council coordinates operations, works up their tactics and strategy, allocates forces, and so forth. There is also another level of cooperation—the work of joint operations teams consisting of police, the procuracy, and the KGB. I have already given an example of such interaction in the Ust-Ilim operation.

[Udodenko] I shall refer once again to V. Bakatin's report. It says, I quote: "Interaction in the fight against corruption has a particular part to play." Kindly comment on this sentence.

[Fedoseyev] I understand the concern of the Minister of Internal Affairs. In its endeavor to survive and gain positions, the criminal world is constantly on the lookout for venal persons in the ranks of employees of the law enforcement authorities and, unfortunately, finds such. The examples of this, in respect to Irkutsk Oblast included, are well known and have been cited in the press. The consequences of such treachery are obvious: the long impunity of the criminals and a crisis of trust in us. Protecting the souls of employees against this erosion is the task of the political authorities, but uncovering and eradicating corrupt elements is our job.

[Udodenko] In connection with the fact that the state security authorities are being given new functions, is a growth of the KGB apparatus to be expected?

[Fedoseyev] Not as yet. We will find the forces for the new assignments thanks to a regrouping of the current lists of staff, and for this reason I ask that the leaders of certain cities and rayons in which we have considerably reduced our staff understand us correctly—we are concentrating efforts in places which are currently "hot," where the operational situation requires.

[Udodenko] There have been instances of bribe-taking, cover-ups of crimes and other offenses in the police authorities. What about in the KGB—do only people who are beyond reproach work with you?

[Fedoseyev] There have not been nor are there in our administration persons who have compromised themselves by links with criminals. But we do come across employees for whom for various reasons things do not work out and who have perpetrated domestic or work misdemeanors. Last year we dismissed from the administration on grounds of unsuitability six persons, including the chief of the KGB Cheremkhovo Division.

[Udodenko] It is known that organized crime is attempting to insert its people in the people's power authorities, nominating suitable persons as candidates for deputy. What can you say in this connection?

[Fedoseyev] We are in the possession of information about this endeavor on the part of criminal groupings. But as yet have no instances of the exposure of corrupt elements in the organs of people's power.

[Udodenko] Can the growth of crime be halted?

[Fedoseyev] Undoubtedly. And I hope further that the new Russian body of deputies which we are to elect shortly will arm us with a criminal law which will concentrate all that is best from the world experience of fighting organized crime.

Foreign Trade Employees Work Financial Swindle

PM3001142590 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
25 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by G. Alimov: "Investigation Continues"]

[Text] In yesterday's IZVESTIYA we published a USSR Prosecutor's Office account of the discovery of instances of theft of state property on a grand scale and bribery in a number of organizations involved in local industry, consumer services, and foreign trade links, and also cooperatives.

A. Sbojev, chief of the USSR Prosecutor's Office investigation section, provides some details:

"What was happening, basically, was that various goods were being delivered abroad through the 'Vostokintorg' All-Union foreign trade association.

"Some smart operators decided to make the deliveries work for them. They would send a cheaper item abroad, instead of the more expensive one. The documentation showed the wrong prices too—greatly overstated. They pocketed the difference. 'Vostokintorg,' which was supposed to be supervising the deliveries, was also drawn into the criminal activities by some unscrupulous employees. As has been reported, when a search was made, one employee alone was found to be in possession of R378,600. It had been buried in the ground."

The investigation is being carried out by the USSR Internal Affairs Ministry Main Investigation Administration, under the supervision of the USSR Prosecutor's Office.

Service Cards Burned at Lvov Informals Rally

PM0102142190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 31 Jan 90 First Edition p 3

[Report by Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy: "Rumors and Common Sense"]

[Text] Lvov—The informal organizations' activity in Lvov has been considerably stepped up recently. They took part in a recent rally organized by local informal group members around Lvov University.

Once again there were the excited voices, the excessive emotions, the collection of signatures from those who disagree with the introduction of troops into Azerbaijan or the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Decree on the declaration of the state of emergency in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and certain other regions.

Strange, isn't it? It would seem clear that there had to be a stop to the bloodshed and the fratricide. But some people in Lvov think otherwise. I do not rule out the possibility that it is they who spread rumors around town that coffins bearing the bodies of dead servicemen have been shipped from Azerbaijan to Lvov Oblast and that military commissariats in the oblast are drafting military

reservists into the Soviet Army and transferring them to the Transcaucasian republics.

Local radio, it is true, broadcast a report from the chief of the Lvov Oblast military commissariat political department that these rumors have no real foundation. But no one wanted to believe this report.

At the head of one of the columns they carried a portrait of S. Bandera. Do you think that this caused some bewilderment? But in Lvov portraits of Bandera are not rare. And not just his picture but pictures of other representatives of the struggle against Soviet power can easily be bought in the city center.

The discussion at the rally began in the form of an ultimatum with the tone set by B. Goryn, a leader of the Lvov organization called the Ukrainian Helsinki alliance. He repeated the rumors about the shipment of coffins with the bodies of dead servicemen. That was bound to influence the other speakers' comments. They blamed the CPSU leadership for what has happened in the Transcaucasus and expressed distrust in the mass media.

An officer of the Carpathian Military District staff tried to clarify the situation which has occurred in Armenia and Azerbaijan. He was prepared to answer the questions troubling the crowd. However, they simply wouldn't let him speak.

It seemed strange that no representatives of party and soviet organs in the city and oblast had decided to address the rally, that they didn't try to pacify the crowd, clarify the situation, or urge the people to show common sense. Therefore it is no wonder that the rally ended with a well rehearsed show—reservist R. Gera burned his military service card and there were appeals to mothers not to allow their sons join the army and calls to burn registration papers in front of the military commissariat buildings.

Emergency Measures To Combat Chita Energy Crisis

PM0102160390 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 31 Jan 90 First Edition p 1

[Lieutenant Colonel A. Malinskiy report under "Emergency Situation" rubric: "Threat Hanging Over City"]

[Text] The energy supply situation in Chita has worsened drastically. And to make matters worse this is at a time when the thermometer is reading minus 47 degrees in the morning. And whereas the people of Chita, who are accustomed to the cold, are generally coping, the situation in industry, agriculture, and transport is ominous. Recently there was a session of the oblast soviet executive committee [oblispolkom] which examined as a matter of urgency the question of the elaboration and adoption of urgent measures to alleviate the energy shortage. A report was given by Yu. Ryzhkov, manager of the "Chitaenergo" association. The energy supply situation is at breaking point, he stated, because whereas

at the beginning of the winter the shortage of generating capacity was 90-95 megawatts and could still be balanced using conventional adjustment measures, now, after the major accident at the Gusinozerskaya state regional electric power station [GRES], that is no longer possible and emergency measures are needed. Someone raised the question of the Kharanorskaya GRES but stopped immediately: Why add insult to injury, when the launch of the first power unit has been delayed for 10 years now. As for today, the potential for limiting electricity consumption at the main industrial enterprises has already been exhausted. The maximum restrictions have been introduced. From now on plants simply have to be shut down. To picture the situation you have to be familiar with the opinion of the participants in the executive committee session. L. Nekrasov, deputy chief power engineer at the "Zabaykalskoye" association, said: The sudden switching off of power to the mines is fraught with the gravest consequences; people might even die. V. Lazo, first deputy chairman of the oblispolkom, said: If the power supply to farms is switched off during milking we will leave Chita without milk, furthermore we will destroy the milking herd. G. Karbushev, director of the Chita machine plant, noted that in the conditions of the shortage or, more accurately, the absence of electricity, the January plan simply cannot be fulfilled.

Personally you can understand him, but is it really a question of production indicators here when the emergency measures proposed by the ispolkom affect even those traditionally sacrosanct spheres such as the housing and consumer sector, railroads, and television. There was talk of reducing television broadcasting time in the morning and evening.

The ispolkom session adopted a decision to switch a proportion of enterprises to night working, to temporarily switch off the electric traction on one section of the Transbaykal railroad, to reduce the morning TV broadcasting time, to bring all available diesel electric power stations into operation, and to adopt a more rigorous approach to observing the regulations governing electricity consumption and the saving of energy resources. This appeal is now addressed to every resident of Chita and its oblast.

Worker Cites Declining Trust in Party Policy

PM2301170990 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA
in Russian 21 Jan 90 Second Edition pp 1,2

[Roundup of answers by participants in Moscow All-Union Conference of Representatives of Working Class, Peasantry, and Engineering and Technical Workers to questions by SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: "We Must Come to Our Senses in Time"]

[Excerpts] On the eve of 21 January—V.I. Lenin remembrance day—SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA's editorial office asked a group of participants in the All-Union Conference of Representatives of the Working Class,

Peasantry, and Engineering and Technical Workers which took place in Moscow last week for a brief reply to the question:

"What, for you, is the dearest and most memorable of Vladimir Ilich Lenin's essential lessons; which Leninist thoughts and behests on building the new life do you consider particularly valuable now, in the practice of perestroika?"

We are publishing some of the replies. [passage omitted]

Yu.P. Barygin, fitter at Leningrad's M.V. Frunze "Arsenal" Production Association: [passage omitted] I, for instance, am surprised that the New Economic Policy, which Lenin considered a temporary excursion into capitalism, suddenly became virtually Lenin's model of socialism. A sensible view shows that Lenin considered private property organically necessary for socialism. What do they take us for, unthinking tools, a gray sluggish mob that they can trick as much as they like? The working class will ultimately have its say because, although individuals may be indifferent today, the working class en masse has been roused. It has lost faith in a great deal, that's true, but it has also fallen to thinking.

Lenin left us two fundamental behests—to cherish unity between the party and the working class and working people as the apple of our eye, and to cherish the unity of the party itself. Our workers are now asking me: Whose interests does the CPSU represent and express? This is alarming evidence that trust in party policy is being undermined. That is on the one hand. On the other, talk of the need to allow factions, along with various platforms and groupings, within the CPSU has intensified. If this happens, we will lose our last and only opportunity to stabilize our society. History will never forgive this.

Government Body Meets on Tank Sale Scandal

PM0102165590 Moscow *PRAVDA* in Russian
1 Feb 90 Second Edition p 3

[TASS report on USSR Council of Ministers Presidium session: "Vzlet" Comes Down to Earth"]

[Text] As has been reported in the press, law-enforcement organs have foiled an attempt to illegally export 12 T-72 tanks with standard-issue weapons. The chief protagonist in the abortive operation was the now defunct intersector state-cooperative concern "ANT."

The circumstances surrounding the involvement of a number of officials in this case were examined at a USSR Council of Ministers Presidium session on 29 January under the chairmanship of N.I. Ryzhkov.

The "ANT" concern was set up for purposes which are being given clear priority at the present stage of our society's development. With its participation, it was intended to step up efforts and expand the potential for saturating the consumer market with popular goods, in particular by using certain benefits and implementing

barter transactions, to develop scientific research, and to introduce Soviet developments in ecology, machine building, the chemical industry, aviation, and electronics. Of course, the concern was supposed to act strictly in accordance with the law.

However, it was shown that the concern took the path of acting illegally, defrauding the state. The aforementioned deal involving tank sales was evidence of this.

How did a situation arise where tanks, for the first time in the history of our defense industry, were driven out of the gates of a military plant and sent no one knows where? The first and decisive step in covering up this illegal transaction was taken by V.K. Dovgan, general director of the USSR Radio Industry Ministry's "Vzlet" Science and Production Association, who was directly instrumental in the concern's acquisition of the tanks, expecting to get part of the profit on the deal for the science and production organization. Defense plant general director V.S. Seryakov was utterly irresponsible in his approach to the question of the sale of the tanks. Leading personnel of the USSR Ministry of the Defense Industry did not adopt the proper measures either.

Officials of the USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry displayed an intolerable lack of principle. Before the concern was even created—its founders being the USSR Ministry of the Automotive Industry and the state-cooperative industrial association "ANT"—the ministry granted "ANT" the right to carry out export and import transactions on its behalf, thus taking the place of the ministry's "Aviaeksport" association.

Certain USSR Defense Ministry officials were inexcusably careless because they failed to prevent the tanks from leaving the plant and from being transported to Novorossiysk by railroad.

All this makes it possible to conclude that a number of organizations and enterprises of the country's defense complex were affected by a reduction in the level of state and executive discipline and by irresponsibility and negligence.

It was noted at the session that unscrupulous people from the "ANT" concern, in contravention of existing procedures, used for commercial deals involving military equipment instructions on granting the concern a number of concessions relating to the purchase and resale of products signed by USSR Council of Ministers Deputy Chairman V.K. Gusev at the request of senior officials of the USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission. Moreover, rolled metal, bronze, lead, stainless steel, mineral fertilizers, articles made from nonferrous metals, and other goods which are scarce here were bought up as industrial waste and secondary raw materials for sale abroad.

The USSR Council of Ministers Presidium admitted that the "ANT" concern's illegal activity, crudely violating the established national procedure for acquiring military assets for sale abroad, was possible because a

number of officials of the USSR Ministry of the Aviation Industry, USSR Ministry of the Radio Industry, and USSR Ministry of the Defense Industry had behaved irresponsibly in respect of their immediate duties and some of them had abused their rights. Some staff of the USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission failed to monitor the activities of the "ANT" concern and in so doing displayed political shortsightedness, which allowed the concern to embark on the path of unlawful actions.

The USSR Council of Ministers Presidium saw it as an unprecedented case that directly contradicted the fundamental principles of USSR foreign economic policy and noted that the culprits would be held strictly responsible, irrespective of their official posts.

For grossly violating existing legislation on the export of armaments and military equipment and approving illegal "ANT" statutes, which were the grounds for the concern's illegal transactions, Aviation Industry First Deputy Minister A.G. Bratukhin was relieved of his post.

Because of his illegal actions in matters of the sale of military equipment and armaments, the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium deemed it impossible to continue to use V.K. Dovgan, general director of the USSR Radio Industry Ministry Science and Production Association, in top-level work and relieved him of his post.

It was noted that V.S. Seryakov, general director of the USSR Defense Industry Ministry's "Uralvagonzavod" Production Association, deserved to be relieved of his post for grossly violating the established procedure for dispatching tanks from the defense plant. But since he had been working for only a few months since his election as general director, he was severely reprimanded.

For failing to implement proper monitoring in the sphere of the sector's foreign economic activity, which led to the USSR Aviation Industry Ministry's unlawful approval of the "ANT" concern's statutes and created conditions for the concern's illegal transactions, USSR Aviation Industry Minister A.S. Systsov was severely reprimanded.

USSR Defense Industry Minister V.M. Belousov and USSR Radio Industry Minister V.I. Shimko were reprimanded for inadequate monitoring of the foreign economic activity of subordinate enterprises and organizations. Defense Industry Deputy Minister M.A. Zakharov was severely reprimanded for failing to adopt measures to prevent the illegal shipment of tanks from the defense plant.

For carelessness and for failing to carry out USSR government instructions on monitoring the activity of the "ANT" concern, Yu.A. Pekshev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers State Foreign Economic Commission, was severely reprimanded and V.S. Grinev, first deputy chief of one of the commission's

departments, who was directly responsible for monitoring, was relieved of his post.

Other officials who had been involved in one way or another in the "ANT" concern's illegal activities were also penalized.

Speaking during the summing up, N.I. Ryzhkov said that the illegal activities of the "ANT" concern and of the officials who had violated state discipline and the rule of law had caused moral and political as well as economic damage to the country, the national economy, and a number of labor collectives. This should serve as a serious lesson for everyone, in particular for state management organs. It was noted that the instances of gross violation of the existing rules of foreign economic activity, which were examined at the session, also make it possible to draw a general conclusion on the need to comprehensively strengthen state discipline in this sphere and make proper use of the instruments of regulation and supervision, including licenses, quotas, the permit system for barter deals, and so on.

As for the sale abroad of armaments and military equipment, even nonsecret equipment, it can only take place with the government's permission. This procedure remains obligatory for all enterprises and organizations without exception.

The relevant state organs are instructed to implement a range of measures to prevent the use of foreign economic links to the detriment of general state interests, the recovery of the national economy, and the normalization of the consumer market.

The USSR Council of Ministers Presidium took cognizance of USSR General Prosecutor A.Ya. Sukharev's report that the USSR Prosecutor's Office is carefully examining the circumstances of the illegal activities of the "ANT" concern and its local organizations.

ANT Director Interviewed

LD0102120390 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
0450 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Interview with economic director of state cooperative concern ANT, Mikhail Eduardovich (Tsarev) by Panorama announcer (Pavel Kasparov) in Moscow radio studio—live]

[Text] [Kasparov] Dear listeners, you no doubt all remember the article in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on 14 January, the well-known article about the discovery of four brand new tanks at the port of Novorossiysk, among scrap metal intended for export. Of course this story immediately rocked public opinion and many people responded to this affair. The inter-industry state cooperative concern ANT—expanded this is Automation, Science and Technology—was involved in this deal. Today, of course, this whole story is being checked and examined many times and a commission is at work, and so on, but we considered it possible to invite to the studio one of the heads of the concern, Mikhail Eduardovich

(Tsarev) economic director general. He is sitting next to me now. Hello Mikhail Eduardovich. My first question to you is this, Mikhail Eduardovich. How was it possible that among the items being sent abroad as scrap metal there were brand new tanks? [(Tsarev)] The fact of the matter is that the ANT concern, set up last year, 1989, at the instruction of the Council of Ministers, obtained permission to buy up secondary raw materials, waste products and products to be written off from various ministries, enterprises and departments, in order to carry out barter operations with the aim of saturating the Soviet market with consumer goods—moreover, above all, with products in particularly short supply, such as syringes consumer goods for people such as clothing, footwear, and other things.

[Kasparov] But that is a matter of surplus stock, while I think what was found here were totally brand new, complete tanks, just with a new coat of paint.

[(Tsarev)] Here it should be explained that in addition to surplus stock, we were permitted to buy up above-plan products. At the present time, conversion is underway at works of the Ministry of Defense, which we were also able to approach. We reached an agreement that works under conversion would supply us with tractor units [for articulated vehicles] which could be used in the national economy. Such tractors were also manufactured—say 10 or 15 years ago—and they are successfully used in the national economy. This is related to [words indistinct as (Tsarev) is interrupted]

[Kasparov] There was, I believe, even an auction not long ago.

[(Tsarev)] Yes, and military equipment is sold very successfully at auctions also and state cooperative organizations take part so as to buy it up. We ordered tractors, and in ordering the tractors we stipulated that all components from the tanks relating to armaments should be re-equipped and have parts removed. What is more, we specifically paid according to the estimate for the re-furbishment and re-equipment and of course, it was tractors we were buying.

[Kasparov] Fine. Now let's return to what you were supposed to gain from your sale of this metal abroad.

[(Tsarev)] Well, the main thing towards which our efforts were directed was obtaining disposable syringes, and secondly, to build a factory for producing disposable syringes on the territory of the Soviet Union. Prior to the appearance of that article—and, incidentally, it should be stated that it was incorrect on this—we had already received not 1 million disposable syringes but 8 million.

[Kasparov] In other words you bought them up?

[(Tsarev)] We bought 8 million disposable syringes for the Soviet Union. I do not think there is any need to say how badly our health service needs disposable syringes. The second thing was the factory, the factory for manufacturing disposable syringes. Besides this, we should

buy up, and a contract has already been worked out on footwear, men's and women's, from France, with a delivery of 90,000 pairs of footwear each month to the Soviet Union. The matter of manufacturing motor cultivators next year, which are so essential to the economy as a result of lease contracting and the great organizational work being conducted in agriculture, has also been worked out.

[Kasparov] Your program is a big one. Mikhail Eduardovich, since you are economic general director, could you perhaps tell us what the economic scope is of your concern in this case?

[(Tsarev)] Well, I have to say that until the point the article was published, evidently this should be taken as the reference point, in 2 months, in only 2 months of our activity, we concluded contracts worth a total of R5.5 million to supply surplus stock, waste products and above-plan output from the Soviet Union abroad according to barter arrangements.

[Kasparov] So, in practice, you found surplus stock at Soviet enterprises worth R5.5 million.

[(Tsarev)] Both surplus stock and above-plan output. One cannot talk only of surplus. Above-plan output is also included here, to a total of a little over R5.5 million.

[Kasparov] I see. Now, a commission is at work....

[(Tsarev)] Now the [abbreviation indistinct] commission is at work and I hope that they will get to the bottom of this story of the so-called tank cooperative. [Kasparov interruption indistinct] We have provided all the documents demanded of us. Absolutely all the documents, according to which we worked and according to which we carried out our operations.

[Kasparov] A specific question: how do you see your position at the given moment? Are you guilty or innocent?

[(Tsarev)] We bear no guilt in the situation over the tanks. Absolutely none. I am 100 percent sure...

[Kasparov] Then the famous question is: who then is to blame? What do you think?

[(Tsarev)] You know, to a great extent the blame lies with the enterprise itself, which firstly, did not comply with our main term. It should have informed us that it had re-equipped these items. It did not inform us. And, I think, all the same, that the commission should investigate in greater detail and find and punish the culprits.

[Kasparov] Well, thank you very much Mikhail Eduardovich. I think it was simply useful for listeners to learn how this situation is developing, since, you have to agree of course, such things do not take place everyday and it has left a definite trace in public opinion and many people are talking about these tanks. We hope that

the commission will eventually get to the bottom of it and that those large government orders which you have made will be realized.

[(Tsarev)] I also hope for this.

[Kasparov] Thank you very much.

Laverov Attends Certification Commission Plenum

PM0102151890 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
28 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "USSR Higher Certification Commission Plenum"]

[Text] A plenum of the USSR Council of Ministers Higher Certification Commission took place 26 January. It discussed the results of the USSR Higher Certification Commission's work in 1989 and outlined tasks for the current year.

It was noted that the most important event of last year for the system of certification of scientific and science teaching cadres was the USSR Council of Ministers' approval of a new provision on the procedure for awarding scientific degrees and titles.

The plenum adopted a resolution defining concrete measures aimed at introducing a new procedure for the certification of highly qualified scientific and science teaching cadres.

Taking part in the plenum were Academician N.P. Laverov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology; senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee, leaders of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the union republic Academies of Sciences, and the country's leading scientists.

Moscow Opinion Poll on Upcoming Elections

90UN0783A Moscow VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA
in Russian 9 Jan 90 p 2

[Article by S. Kolobanov, candidate of philosophical sciences, and N. Kuznetsov, director of VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA sociological service: "Who Will Win?"]

[Text] On 6 January our newspaper published the results of a reader poll concerning their attitudes toward elections. As a supplement to this study, the section for the study of public opinion of the USSR Academy of Sciences Sociological Institute and the VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA sociological service also conducted a questionnaire survey of our countrymen by place of residence. Today we acquaint our readers with its results.

We must note first and foremost that 78 percent of Moscow residents indicate the presence of social tension in the city. Although elements of skepticism and pessimism are somewhat noticeable in public opinion, many citizens are definitely placing their hopes in the coming

elections to republic and local soviets. Thus, 43 percent of Moscow residents note that today's election campaign is of great interest to them; another 29 percent express "average" interest; and only seven percent stated that the elections do not interest them. This is confirmed as well by responses to another question: "Do you intend to personally participate in the coming elections?" "Yes" was the response of 74 percent of Moscow residents; 18 percent have not yet made a decision; only eight percent have decided not to participate in the elections.

According to voter opinion, the new body of deputies will be required to resolve many issues. These include providing the population with produce and manufactured goods, problems of the ecology, increased crime, restoration of social justice norms, housing problems, providing improved medical and social services, and a great deal more.

Who, in the opinion of Moscow residents, can win the struggle for a deputy's seat? Representatives of what organizations can count on voter support?

For 82 percent of those polled who decided to participate in the voting, party membership by a candidate made no difference; for 72 percent—his nationality; for 60 percent—his occupation. The overwhelming majority of respondents believe the most important factor in a candidate is work and personal qualities. Their response is shown in the table below.

During the course of the study, Moscow residents were asked the following question: "Who do you intend to support in this election campaign?" Thirty-five percent wish to support representatives of the intelligentsia, 28 percent—candidates from the field of workers, nine percent—candidates from among economic leaders.

It is also very important to the voters whether or not a candidate resides in the same electoral district in which he is running for office. This was noted by 66 percent of those polled. Thirty-eight percent of Moscow residents also consider it important whether or not a candidate works in the same rayon.

A study was also made of the chances current city leaders have of being elected to the Moscow soviet. Survey results show that only the first secretary of the CPSU Moscow City Committee currently shows a positive net result after considering the favorable and unfavorable predictions made by Moscow residents.

Based on survey results, we can conclude that the election campaign is taking place with Moscow residents showing a fairly high level of interest, that their attitude towards the elections is determined by a striving to avert further aggravation of the socioeconomic and ecological problems of the republic and the city and stopping the escalation of social tension. To attain this they will use, among other means, the method of delegating the most deserving individuals to posts in the new soviets.

It must also be stated that 41 percent of respondents are relying on positive changes to take place during the next five-seven years, although 19 percent think changes will not occur and everything will remain as before. One-fifth of those polled believes that the situation will most likely change for the worse.

Of those who expect positive changes, 47 percent were unable to name either an organization or organ of government with whose activities they tie in their expectations. Thirteen percent of respondents attach their hopes to the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Nine percent—to the activity of newly elected local soviets, eight percent—to the CPSU Central Committee, five percent—to the USSR Council of Ministers, and one percent—to informal organizations.

Work and Personal Qualities of Candidates to the Position of Deputy Most

Valued by Moscow Residents

1. Overall cultural standards, broad horizons—61 percent.
2. Knowledge of the needs of his electorate—50 percent.
3. Knowledge of the law and judicial norms—49 percent.
4. Personal incorruptibility—36 percent.
5. Fairness—29 percent.
6. Conscientiousness, work efficiency—18 percent.
7. Devotion to the cause of perestroika—nine percent.
8. Ability to attract people and lead—seven percent.
- 9-11. Organizational capabilities—six percent.
- 9-11. Ability to address people, argue his views—six percent.
- 9-11. Experience working in party and soviet organs—six percent.
12. Personal courage—5.5 percent.
13. Flexibility, diplomacy—2.5 percent.
- 14-15. Goodheartedness, responsiveness—two percent.
- 14-15. Personal charm—two percent.
- 16-17. Outward appearance (ability to dress tastefully)—one percent.

Moscow Election Campaign Enters 'Crucial Stage'

LD0102161990 Moscow TASS in English 1213 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—By TASS correspondent Lev Akseonov: There will be tough competition during the elections of people's deputies of the Russian Federation, the Moscow city and district soviets in Moscow on March 4.

Five hundred and ninety two people are running for 65 seats in Russia.

Keen competition is also expected during the election of deputies to the city and district soviets: 3,361 candidates were registered for 498 seats in the city soviet and 11,859 candidates for 4,721 seats in district soviets. It is symptomatic that in Moscow the overwhelming majority of

candidates to soviets of different levels had not previously taken part in the activity of the elected bodies of power previously.

Representatives of party committees play an active part in the election campaign. Yuriy Prokofyev, Moscow city party chief, and other secretaries of party organisations in Moscow have been nominated, a city soviet spokesman told TASS.

First secretaries of party district committees are competing for deputy mandates in all parts of the city. All have rival candidates in their constituencies.

The election campaign in Moscow just as in Russia has entered a crucial stage, and candidates are meeting their electors and presenting their programmes.

Some people's deputies of the USSR have also joined the election campaign because the law allows any citizen of the country to take part in the work of two soviets, a representative of the Moscow city soviet said. For instance, people's deputies of the USSR Gavriil Popov and Sergey Stankevich were registered as candidates for deputies of the Moscow soviet, and Ilya Zaslavskiy is running for the mandate of the deputy of the Oktyabrskiy district soviet.

Moscow Gorkom First Secretary Interviewed

90UN0754A Moscow VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA
in Russian 12 Jan 90 p 2

[Report on interview with Moscow Gorkom First Secretary Yu.A. Prokofyev by VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA correspondents V. Gordin and A. Russovskiy: "Reputation Not Acquired Through Decree"]

[Excerpt] [Introductory passages omitted] [V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Yuri Anatolyevich, last year we met three times in a different office. Our last interview was published not long before you were elected first secretary of the CPSU MGK [Moscow city committee]. Our question today is quite natural: Having been second secretary you already knew what the work of the first secretary involves. You had worked together; you acted in his place when he went on vacation. But still, what came up that was unexpected after you moved to this office?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] I would say there were not all that many surprises. I knew the job in general, but you might be correct. Something was unexpected: I acquired a new, somewhat acute feeling of responsibility—a responsibility for actions and decisions and not just for words. If I may continue your idea of this office, it is here that situations arise when I myself have to give an immediate answer and there is no time and no person to ask for advice. One has to decide for himself and he becomes answerable for the decision. However, there are problems that I cannot solve without asking for advice. The other day I got a call from Leningrad, from Gidasov. He told me:

"Leningrad is introducing food rationing. What about Moscow?"

My response was: "I cannot make such a decision myself. If we have to introduce ration cards, I will have to discuss it seriously with the Muscovites."

We, of course, have a lot of trouble with the supplies both now and in the nearest future. I think we will have to resort to some regimentation, given the situation in the country. But we will try to do without ration cards, using instead the system of selling groceries through advance orders.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] As first secretary, how did you start your work? What changes did you make in your agenda and your staff?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] No radical changes have been made yet either in my daily agenda or in the style of the gorkom's [city party committee] work. I have the same aides that worked for L.N. Zaykov—Vyacheslav Evgenyevich Remezov, Igor Sergeyevich Frolov, Grigoriy Mikhaylovich Kurennoy, and my assistant Vladimir Ivanovich Pashko. However, I am not yet used to that many aides. Lately I had only one assistant and before that I had worked without any at all.

Anticipating your question, I want to say that I did not start riding in a Chaika or ZIL; I ride in a Volga as before. I would like to have a white one, but they say there are only black ones in the garage so far.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] We know that this office had been the place of work for only the first secretaries for dozens of years. So, what did you start with after you came into it?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] To be quite precise, I started with a press conference for journalists because I consider glasnost and openness in the work of the gorkom as the main, indispensable conditions. I intend to keep similar direct contacts with the press in future too.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] As we know, you also started with a meeting with the people of Moscow.

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] Yes, one of the first tasks I set myself was to familiarize as many people as possible with my program, with the problems that pose a certain concern for the city and, consequently, the gorkom. I want everybody to know about the complex negative phenomena, about the role of the party at the present stage, about the forces that try to slow perestroika down, and about the ways to overcome them; I need such meetings not less, but maybe more than the people. Neither the gorkom nor the Mossovet [Moscow city council] can do anything without the Muscovites' help, without their understanding and work. I am deeply convinced of that.

We must know whether our measures and decisions are correct, whether we have any support or if there is disagreement in some areas. Then we have to react fast and amend our program. For that reason I decided to use

the first days on my new job for meeting various social groups of Muscovites. First I met with the city propagandists, not the easiest audience I want to say openly and with some satisfaction. Then, for the next 5 days, I met with party organization secretaries, 500 of them a day. There were several hundred items and 115 speakers.

The meetings with the intelligentsia, factory workers, and law enforcement officials were very important and interesting. I took part in the work of the Babushkinskiy Rayon VLKSM [All-Union Leninist Communist Youth League] conference. By the way, that was the first time that all gorkom secretaries attended rayon VLKSM conferences.

I would also mention here the two past CPSU Central Committee plenums which I attended and two of our plenums where we discussed and adopted the MGK political theses for the elections, as well as my meetings in the Mossovet with members of the microrayon self-government committees, my talks with the city organization chairman of the USSR Journalists Union, M. Poltoranin; with a well-known economist, People's Deputy G. Popov; cultural workers M. Ulyanov and V. Fokin; with the USSR and RSFSR ministers of internal affairs, V. Bakatin and V. Trushin, and many, many other people. Now you can see my agenda in the first month and a half.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Which of your meetings was the hardest for you?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] None of them go simply now. I cannot evade a single issue, not that I want to either. And at present, as you well know, the issues happen to be as crucial as the situation in the country is. And still, I think, it is the hardest to talk to the young people: The youth are maximalists and I can understand them. I just wish they would understand me, our generation, also. To sum it all up I want to say that I intend to keep this style: regular meetings, contacts, and communication with the Muscovites. I plan to appear on Moscow TV programs no less than once a month and to report about the solution of all current programs.

So, the armchair style of work is not suitable for our times even though there is a lot of work in the office too. Look, on my desk there is a work plan for the month and for each week separately.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] We approach the first secretary's desk. A big sheet of thick white paper ruled into squares has each working day scheduled by the hour. There are meetings, trips, appointments; even telephone calls and days of sending the necessary letters are marked on it.

A little table on the right accommodates rows of telephones: direct lines to the Mossovet ispolkom [executive committee] chairman and the GUVd [Chief Administration of Internal Affairs] chief, two government communications phones for long-distance calls. There are also telephones with direct lines to the editors of the city

newspapers, MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA and VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA.

Here is another telephone. Instead of a dial it has the USSR state emblem and the legend under it: M.S. Gorbachev.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Does this phone ring often?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] During all this time Mikhail Sergeyevich has called me twice and, what is most surprising, he called during the times most critical for me when I had to have some advice.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Have you called Gorbachev?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] Not yet.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] We return to the visitors' table in the corner of the office and turn on our dictaphone again.

Yuri Anatolyevich, you are a Muscovite, which is something that many of your predecessors could not say about themselves. Your whole life has been tied up with Moscow. As you probably know, our newspaper recently did some polling and we published the results on 6 January. Honestly speaking, we discovered an alarming situation. The people of Moscow have lost their faith in a number of things; they have become tired of waiting. There is a sufficient degree of tension everywhere. We would like you to comment on the polling results and to answer the ensuing question: How can we remove the tension and make the people's lives easier? We also would like to mention that we received a lot of complaints in the face of the coming new year—complaints about empty counters, poor choice of food in advance orders even for the war and labor veterans and families with many children.

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] I read VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA and for me the results of the poll did not come as a surprise. I live in Moscow myself; my relatives live here. So I have the information, as they say, from the horse's mouth. Can it be news to me that the Muscovites are dissatisfied with the supplies of food and consumer goods? I am not blind not to see the empty store shelves. I am also very concerned about the situation which very often is caused by criminal negligence and mismanagement and not by any shortages. This goes for the trade officials at any level. The store shelves are empty but the audits disclose accumulations of food in storage facilities. That happened in Krasnopresnenskiy Rayon and some others.

We discovered numerous violations in wholesale warehouses that supply goods to all Moscow, of which we have about 500 in the city. That is where food and manufactured goods are sold on the side, in which case we are dealing with intentional crime and not just violations. So far there has not been any effective fight against this crime. The party gorkom decided to set up a very rigid system of permanent control at the wholesale warehouses; now it is working on a detailed plan of this

undertaking. We cannot ignore other links in the trade chain which sometimes moves very creakingly.

I want to tell the Muscovites that the gorkom and Mossovet are now taking all the necessary measures on the agreements to provide the required volume of supplies for the city in 1990. However, the situation has been complicated by the fact that we switched to stipulated prices as of this year. Therefore the city will need some R850 million extra. It will be very difficult to find the required sums, but I think we still will be able to do it.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] We seem to remember that at a press conference, already as first secretary, you spoke about the possibility and necessity of doing something to put an end to the crime in the city in the nearest future and also to clean up the city and make some improvements in the streets. Judging by the results of our poll, these two items also concern our people.

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] I do not know if our citizens have noticed, but the crime increase curve in our city has stopped rising. To me this seems a somewhat positive result already. Now this curve should start going downward. It is true that the present level is still too high and we cannot ignore this. You would want to know how we managed to halt the crime increase. We took a number of measures: We solved certain problems of the militia itself and expanded its rights and possibilities; we treat those who do not want to work or who violate passport regulations more strictly now; we have become seriously involved in crime prevention.

Now the second part of your question—street cleaning. We all witnessed in early December how the road maintenance crews failed their first serious test. True, there were some objective reasons for it—a big, almost 30-degree drop in temperature and unexpected formation of ice. But there were also the other, the main problems: slow reaction, lack of preparedness, lack of ability to plan actions in extreme situations. That morning I was in Yasenevo, in Krylatskoye, and other places, and I saw for myself thousands of people walking to work after no buses or trolleys showed up. I heard what they were saying about us—the gorkom and the Mossovet ispolkom—and I was ashamed and hurt at hearing this. If we could not seriously complain of the transportation officials, we did make the road service answer for this in full. As you know, that same evening we called a bureau session of the CPSU MGK. I would even qualify it as extraordinary. By the way, I was late for it because of the ice on the roads and the resulting traffic jams. At the bureau meeting some people tried again to blame everything on the unpredictable Moscow winter; they tried to sedate us with total figures and talks about the future. Enough talking! We evaluated what happened from the political point of view. We spoke about the necessity to strengthen the sector under the leadership of the Mossovet ispolkom deputy chairman, Kazantsev; after that we decided to fire other chiefs of the road service and to punish many others according to

party rules. True, we used the old methods of administrative commanding. But tell me please what else could we do?

From the poll conducted by your paper one can clearly see that the Muscovites are very critical of what the soviets can do. So if the soviets want to have real power and not just a pretense of one, then they have to get rid of lazy characters and safeguard the interests of our people. In this case, I hope it will not be necessary to call an extraordinary meetings of the gorkom bureau.

I would like to mention also that we had pinned great hopes on the self-government committees. We are ready to hand over power and money to them. It is easier for them to direct and control all work on street improvement in their locations, to see to the city clean-up and order in the streets and courtyards. Unfortunately many of them are not ready to accept it.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] We would like to ask you a question related again to the poll results. "Who, in your opinion, has the real power in the city?" This was the wording of the question for the Muscovites. Here is what they think: 52 percent feel that the power belongs to the party and only 5 percent think it belongs to the Soviets of People's Deputies. What is your opinion?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] I want to start with a recent example. A woman called the receptionist: "Give me Prokofyev." "What for?" she was asked. "I want to complain of poor street cleaning." It was explained to her that we have division of responsibilities and her problem falls under the jurisdiction of the Mossovet ispolkom. "I can read," she said, "and I know that Article 6 of the Constitution has not yet been canceled by anyone. The party is responsible for everything." So, what do you know? I had to pick up the receiver and talk to her.

Both this phone call and the poll results serve very convincingly to emphasize the fact that the majority of our society sees our party as a real force capable of solving the most complex problems of today, even in spite of the present tension and all the severe criticism of the party.

As for the soviets, you cannot transfer power by decree. A new political structure is being created and it needs time to shape and mature. I have mentioned more than once the three conditions for strengthening the soviets: We need to create a functional law on local economic autonomy; we need the right to create our own budget; and we need the material and technical resources that would allow us to realize our goals. And, of course, we have to learn how to work, to be responsible for the results, and constantly remember the needs of our people. We watched the torturous process of shaping our Soviet parliament which took 1 year. It is going to be the same or worse on the republic, city, or rayon level. One cannot go through the process in one leap and one cannot change people's mentality in a moment.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] As we can see, the prestige of the party is quite high. But our readers ask why perestroika in the party itself is going so slowly?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] They are right. The new political structure has not been formed yet. Only its upper echelon, the Congress of Soviets, has been created, but this structure is not working at lower levels. We will have to separate the legislative and executive powers at all levels. Only then will the party shed the functions alien to it and start doing the work expected of it. But until then the party has to work parallel with the soviets, whether we want it or not.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Another question in this respect: The political theses of the CPSU MGK state clearly and unequivocally that the gorkom stands for a change in Article 6 of the USSR Constitution. What is your opinion?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] I participated in drafting the theses and I voted for them. Therefore my opinion does not differ from that of the plenum. I am convinced that a political party should gain its prestige only through political methods.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] The new job and the new position give you opportunities, as they say. Don't you plan, for instance, to move from your native Sokolniki to another, say trendier, area? Into another, a bigger apartment?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] No, I do not.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Are you going to go shopping on Sundays as before?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] Yes, I am. Of course, there is not enough time, just Sundays. Speaking of time, I have to call home. I promised to come home early today.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] Yuri Anatolyevich sees us to the door. While taking our leave we ask:

Where did you celebrate the New Year?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] At home with my family, as usual.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] What was your wish for 1990?

[Yu.A. Prokofyev] This question I will not answer; otherwise it won't come true.

[V. Gordin, A. Russovskiy] We come out of his office. The time is 2100. Two more people are still waiting to meet with the first secretary.

Lukyanov on Crime Control, 'Black Market' Sales

*LD0102214690 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1800 GMT 1 Feb 90*

[Report by correspondents V. Stepanyuk and T. Yermilova on Anatoliy Lukyanov address to Soviet Interim

Crime Control Committee meeting in Moscow on 1 February; from "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] [Yermilova] I want to give you some facts. Over the past 6 months, of 275 types of items in short supply, only ten were on open sale. Moreover, the production of these goods did not decrease. At the same time over the past year the number of those against whom criminal and administrative proceedings have been initiated for speculation has doubled. Valuables worth R18 million have been confiscated from second-hand dealers, and, evidently, this is only a small proportion. These figures were adduced at the latest sitting of the interim crime control committee.

[Stepanyuk] Problems concerning malpractice in trade and speculation have been discussed. It was noted at the sitting that over the past 3 months the state of affairs in trade has not only been destabilized but has substantially deteriorated. Criminal groups, exploiting the imperfect nature of the economic mechanism, deformations in the cooperative movement and the shadow economy, are concentrating considerable resources in their hands and are artificially creating a shortage of goods and a crisis on the consumer market. [video shows the sitting in session with Lukyanov in the chair]

[Begin Lukyanov recording] Last year 200,000 trade and public catering enterprises were inspected by the Ministry of Internal Affairs bodies with the participation of the [Committee of] People's Control. These violations were brought to light in every second enterprise.

That means, if we take account of the fact that we have 1,100,000 trade and public catering enterprises, then it is not difficult to reckon that—an analogous picture, in general, is almost identical everywhere in our country—then the volume of goods being concealed from sale, going to the black market, constitutes a minimum of R6,000 or R7,000 million. These are the figures for you.

This means that to the natural shortage, well here there are difficulties of course both with production and with many other things, with economic reform itself, is added an artificial shortage. This is being added by criminal elements, and so far we have not experienced great changes for the better in the struggle against these criminal elements. This means, if we are going to call everything by its name, that this not only gives rise to the enormous discontent of working people, of ordinary [prostykh] people; this is the straightforward sabotage of perestroika. You cannot choose other words here. [end recording] [video shows medium close-up shot of Lukyanov speaking at the rostrum]

[Stepanyuk] The committee has discussed in detail and approved a draft law on increasing liability for malpractice in trade and speculation. It has been recommended to the Supreme Court and procuracy that they put it forward for examination by the forthcoming Supreme Soviet session. [video shows a panning shot of the committee in session]

[Yermilova] While recommending the most severe punitive measures, the USSR people's deputies, and indeed each of us, realize the main thing in the fight against criminal elements will be an improvement of our economy, an improvement of the moral atmosphere in the country and strict verification [kontrol] by public organizations of the operation of trade and public catering.

Local Reactions to Ryabev Team's Talks in Kuzbass

PM1901115390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
18 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Decision Being Elaborated"]

[Text] Prokopyevsk, 17 Jan—The government commission headed by L.D. Ryabev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is continuing its work in Prokopyevsk today. In the morning all the main points of the oblast protocol agreed in July of last year with the Kuzbass strike committee were discussed. This document contains more than 30 items.

"We are able to work constructively because the signal sent out by the Kuzbass miners in the summer has not only been received but also heard in Moscow," A.F. Lyutenko, chairman of the Kemerovo Oblast Soviet Executive Committee, believes. "Judge for yourself. In the past we had problems in persuading enterprises to help us stop the decline of small villages. Now preconditions have been created to revive these villages through targeted capital investments backed up by material resources. Without going into the government decisions in detail, I will cite one figure: During the next 5-Year Plan R3.2 billion is to be invested in the agro-industrial complex. Such a sizeable 'injection' into Kuzbass agriculture is unprecedented."

"I do not think that we will manage to sign a definitive agreement today," M.B. Kislyuk, member of the Kuzbass Regional Council of Workers Committees, says. "Although the positions of the Council of Workers Committees and the government commission have drawn closer, the problem of granting independence and regional economic accountability to Kuzbass enterprises remains very difficult in practice. In order to speed up the talks, a working group comprising specialists, scientists, and USSR people's deputies has been formed and has embarked on drafting an agreement."

In the evening the government commission completed the examination of the oblast protocol.

"Our work over the past 2 days dealt with various aspects of life in the industrial region," T.G. Avaliani, chairman of the regional council of Kuzbass workers committees, says. "For instance, the problem of reforestation cannot be resolved by strikes, and we discussed this problem seriously because we want to see our region prosper. We will need at least 10 years to achieve the present development level of the Donbass. It is difficult to make any forecasts now; after all, we will have to wait

at least a year to assess what is envisaged by the protocol. Bigger efforts will be needed both at the center and at local level. The measures contained in the protocol are only stepping stones toward the comprehensive development of the national economy of the Kuzbass.

Saratov Party Contacts With Informals Applauded

PM1901121390 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
18 Jan 90 Second Edition p 4

[Article by own correspondent A. Vorotnikov under "An Asset to Perestroyka" rubric: "Contacts With Members of Informal Organizations"]

[Text] Saratov Oblast—More and more people have begun to assemble of late in the Aircraft Builders' Culture Complex. One of the reasons is the increasingly frequent meetings held with representatives of various social movements. Recently, for example, there has been keen dialogue there between members of the Memorial society and the local People's Front and representatives of the Saratov Higher Party School. The situation in society, current problems, and the country's past and present have been discussed.

"We decided to hold these meetings openly and publicly," I was told at the Saratov aircraft plant party committee. "Let everyone who wants, take part in debating and discussing topical questions. We have also had debates with environmentalists and those who favor the revival of a German autonomous formation in the Volga region."

Experienced communists, including leading rayon and city party committee [raykom, gorkom] workers, are boldly establishing contacts, including with proponents of extreme views, taking an active part in discussions, and making constructive proposals. It is also important that party committees have now much improved the information working people have.

"Our information and propaganda group," Ye. Frolov, inspector at the Saratov Oblast CPSU Committee [obkom], said, "has in a short space of time met with students and lecturers at higher educational institutions [VUZ], the workers and employees of a number of plants, and the collectives of scientific research institutes. Such meetings have also been held in the cities of Balakovo and Marks. There was inevitably detailed, sometimes pointed discussion with members of informal organizations, which, it should be noted, did enable us to clarify in many respects the sides' stances and improve the social and psychological atmosphere. The need for noisy rallies where emotion mostly prevails over reason has disappeared. The party committees are being greatly assisted by USSR people's deputies, who are channeling their electorate's efforts in a constructive way. Such work receives the constant attention of the obkom and its first secretary, K. Murenik, who has met with the party and economic aktiv of all 50 cities and rayons of the oblast in the last 4 months."

What else are local communists doing? They are seeking to keep ahead of events rather than lagging behind them and following in their wake, as often happened in the past. All collectives, without exception, have drawn up and are implementing programs to deal with such acute problems as food, housing construction, and boosting the output of construction materials and consumer goods. Party committees are seeking to involve as many people as possible, including those belonging to informal organizations, in tackling these programs. Speeches on these issues from a destructive standpoint therefore no longer receive support from the inhabitants of the Volga region. People understand that their lives can be improved only through their own efforts.

The theme of the environment is constantly being discussed and tackled along with activists of informal organizations: Enlarged sittings of the oblast soviet executive committee [oblispolkom], sessions of the Saratov City Soviet Executive Committee [gorispolkom], and a scientific theory and practice conference in the city of Engels have been held. In Balakovo the aktiv, including members of informal organizations, have been briefed on the work of the nuclear electric power station [AES].

Dialogue is being established with Revival, an informal association of Volga Germans. Freundschaft cultural and educational clubs have been set up in Marksovskiy and Krasnoarmeyskiy Rayons and in Saratov and Engels. They focus their attention on the language, customs, and traditions of Soviet Germans.

Party committees also maintain close contact with such independent formations as the Sobesednik literary cafe, the Sokrat club at the Khimik culture complex, and Otrazheniye, a club for science fiction fans based at the university library. More and more people are attending political clubs of voters. Particularly now, in the period of preparation for the elections to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and local soviets.

But there are quite a few serious problems existing in party organizations' work among independent formations. One of them is a lack of proper experience and sometimes an inability to conduct incisive discussion—hence stem attempts to resort to "proscription." The times demand a different sort of competence and deeper knowledge. Moreover, party and soviet workers should possess fighting qualities and combine a personal conviction in the rightness of their own views with tolerance of the opinion of others and the ability to listen to and accept all valuable suggestions.

Russian Orthodox Prelates on Church Seizures

LD0102204290 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1530 GMT 1 Feb 90

[From "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today, a news conference was held devoted to the results of the synod of prelates of the Russian Orthodox Church that took place in Moscow at the Holy Danilov

Monastery 30-31 January. The church prelates said primary attention was dedicated to the position of the Russian Orthodox Church in connection with the aggravation of interethnic and interdenominational relations in some regions of our country, particularly the Western Ukraine. There, representatives of the Catholic Church of the Eastern tradition, or Uniates, are seizing churches by force. As the archbishop of the Lvov, Chernobyl, and Ivano-Frankovsk eparchy reported, the Uniates are being supported by extremist-minded, nationalistic, non-formal associations such as Rukh. Threats, blackmail, and bribery are being used. It was stressed that methods of violence are categorically condemned. The Russian Orthodox Church calls for the resolution of problems which have emerged by peaceful means, in a spirit of brotherly love. The seizure of churches threatens to destroy the process which was outlined in official talks with the Roman Catholic church.

Mikheylov, representative of the Council for Religious Affairs attached to the USSR Council of Ministers, said religious communities that have forcibly seized churches will not be registered. The synod also adopted a decision naming the Ukrainian and Belorussian exarchates of the Moscow patriarchate the Ukrainian and Belorussian Orthodox Churches.

Report of Cathedral Transfer Denied

LD3101221790 Moscow TASS in English 2201 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—Participants in the Bishops' Council of the Russian Orthodox Church denied the January 30 report of Soviet Television that the Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches agreed to transfer to Eastern Catholics the Cathedral of the Resurrection in the city of Ivano-Frankovsk. Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and Galich, exarch to the Ukraine, said this in an interview to Vremya programme of Soviet Television.

The Bishops' assembly declares that there has been no such arrangement with regard to this cathedral and all other forcibly seized temples, Metropolitan Filaret said.

He said Orthodox Christians in Ivano-Frankovsk protest against the unlawful decision of the regional executive committee and the city executive committee to transfer the cathedral in Ivano-Frankovsk to uniates.

The metropolitan said the decision to transfer the cathedral with all its property had been made without the consent of Orthodox Christians and without the knowledge of Archbishop Makari.

Such acts run counter to the spirit of joint recommendations adopted by delegations of the Roman Catholic Church and the Russian Orthodox Church regarding the settlement of disputed problems in the Western Ukraine, he said.

The Metropolitan said such decisions contradict the existing legislation, complicate the situation in the region and place new obstacles in the way of its normalisation.

Orthodox Cathedral Handed Over to Catholics

LD3001144190 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1328 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Kiev, 30 Jan (TASS)—In the presence of several thousand believers, Vadim Boychuk, chairman of the Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies, handed to Greek Catholic Bishop Pavel Vasilyk documents on transferring the Cathedral of the Holy Ascension, which previously belonged to the Orthodox, to local Eastern rite Catholics. The interests of the Orthodox, who form a significant minority in the oblast, have not been harmed. Another cult building, which until recently housed a museum, is being handed over to them.

The TASS correspondent was told by Nikolay Kolesnik, chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs attached to the Ukrainian Council of ministers, that in the past 2 years the number of religious associations in the Ukraine has grown by 1.4 times to reach 8,000. About 2,000 previously disused cult buildings have been handed over to the newly created associations of believers, including sects which did not exist in the republic before, and help is being given in the construction of new places of worship.

Trans-Carpathian Party Obkom Official Retires

LD0102150590 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0330 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The session of the Bureau of the Trans-Carpathian party obkom, held yesterday, discussed a request of Bandrovskiy, first secretary of the obkom, to release him from the post in connection with his retirement on pension.

The Bureau decided to advise to a forthcoming plenum of the obkom to examine and satisfy the request.

The plenum will be held on 9 February, with the participation of party activists who are not members of the oblast party committee.

All local party committees and organizations have been recommended to hold meetings and in all-round discussions to evaluate candidates for the post of first secretary of the obkom. All proposals from below will be generalized by the obkom's commission of party and cadre work and then submitted to the plenum.

Kachura, member of the Politburo and Secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee, took part in the session.

Demonstration Against Radar Station

LD3001034190 Budapest Television Service
in Hungarian 2022 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Since the inception of perestroika the long-suffering Magyars of Transcarpathia have also been raising their voices a lot more freely. So too have the Ruthenians, who up till now were officially known as Ukrainians, and who recently also discovered that their ancient language and culture, which differ markedly from the Ukrainian of Kiev, have in fact been starting to sink into oblivion during the years of Soviet power.

The masses of these two nationalities are protesting together against that huge, strange building, which at the outset the military authorities described as a pasta factory, but which, following stubborn questioning, even Soviet Defense Minister Yazov himself admitted was a radar station.

Two weeks ago "Panorama" showed a report about the radar station. Our report evoked a huge response. The [Defense] Ministry received information from the Soviet side that the station does not endanger the population or the natural environment of the region, even less of Hungary. As for the construction of a nuclear reactor, they are not even planning it.

All this did not reassure the Transcarpathian population. The author of a letter in the Transcarpathian paper IGAZ SZO, for instance, gives no credence to the official reassurances, and he is apprehensive that the radar station will work like a microwave oven. Several people are saying that such a huge amount of rays can only be generated with nuclear energy and they really do not want any more of that after Chernobyl.

Our crew made this film report at a demonstration last week in Uzhgorod. It is interesting that it did not even occur to the Soviet authorities to object to the fact that the Ukrainians demonstrated with their blue-yellow flags and the Hungarians with their red white and green, in unity, freely and in two languages.

[Unidentified correspondent] On Friday last week [26 January] they were demonstrating outside the Uzhgorod city council at 0800 [0600 GMT] already. Under pressure from the population, the Transcarpathian representatives sat down at the negotiating table, behind closed doors, to discuss with the soldiers, the affair of the (Pistraza) radar station. [protesters shouting heard in background]

The Transcarpathians are worried. Their wells are drying out. They can not water their crops. Since Chernobyl they have been afraid. In vain the soldiers try to reassure people that it is not a nuclear reactor that will provide power for the radar station at (Pistraza). People do not forget that at the outset the top-secret military project was disguised as a macaroni factory. Transcarpathia does not want any of this macaroni. [chanting heard: "We do not want macaroni!"]

This is what the macaroni factory-turned-radar station looks like. To film it, to enter it, without permission is forbidden.

[Unidentified official] Then address yourselves to the town authorities, if you want to prepare official material, not the kind that was shown not long ago on Hungarian TV. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent speaking to demonstration participants] We heard that they want to move the population away from here. I imagine nobody would like that. [passage omitted]

[Woman speaking in Hungarian] There are no vegetables here any more. Tomatoes and the like don't grow any more. So the situation is very bad. [passage omitted]

[Man speaks in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation] There is a lot one could say about this issue, but as you see, our leaders, the representatives of power, pay no heed to us. [passage omitted] Magyars have lived together with the Ruthens—as the Ukrainians were called at one time—in Transcarpathia for 1,000 years. However, in the course of the 1,000 years the Ukrainian people have never suffered as much as during the 45 years of Soviet power. You too can hear the voice of the people. But this military machinery, on the other hand, says something quite different. The soldiers have invaded our settlements. Now they will withdraw the Soviet troops from Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Here in Transcarpathia, on the other hand, they will appear once again. And this fills us with unease. We can't keep quiet. We have to speak. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] In the end no agreement was reached behind the closed doors by the representatives of the Transcarpathian city council and the soldiers. The representatives have addressed a letter to the Soviet Government, asking that in the course of the next month they should re-examine the decision to construct the (pistraza) radar station. The affair of the pasta factory is still on the agenda.

Transcarpathia Radar Station Project Halted

LD3101142190 Kiev in English to Europe
1900 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The Transcarpathian regional council adopted a decision on halting the construction of a radar station in Mukachevo district. Prior to that, the local authorities appealed to the Defense Ministry to stop work on the project. The Ministry kept silent and the lack of [word indistinct] information evoked a wave of meetings and pickets. Participants demanded that Transcarpathia be turned into a preserve and national recreation zone.

Plenum Held To Elect Kulyab Oblast Officials

LD0202000390 Dushanbe Domestic Service in Tajik
1000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] A plenum of the newly formed Kulyab oblast party committee was held in Kulyab town to discuss organizational issues.

Mirzoshoyev was elected first secretary and buro member of Kulyab oblast party committee; (Tseplokhin), second secretary and buro member; Rakhmanova and Ashrafov, buro members and secretaries.

The plenum was addressed by Kakhar Makhkamovich Makhkamov, first secretary of the Tajikistan Communist Party Central Committee.

Restoring Volga German ASSR Discussed

90UN0774B Moscow SOYUZ in Russian
No 3, 15-21 Jan 90 p 8

[Report by Valentina Nikolayeva, IZVESTIYA correspondent, and Viktor Yakovlev, TASS correspondent, Saratov Oblast: "Debates on the Shores of the Volga"]

[Text]

Open Forum

The problem of restoring German autonomy on the territory of the former Volga German ASSR did not originate today nor did it originate yesterday. The tensions that have developed recently in the sphere of interethnic relations have only made it more acute.

The Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet created a special commission for Soviet German problems, instructing it to visit cities where Germans live, to study the situation, and to make recommendations. A working group of the deputy commission, which was headed by USSR People's Deputy V. Medikov, also came to Saratov Oblast. It visited the cities of Marx, Krasnoarmeysk, and Engels, and it acknowledged that the territory of the former Volga German ASSR was most acceptable and ready for the restoration of autonomy on the Volga.

After the press reports about these preliminary conclusions of the deputy commission, thousands of residents of the city of Marx came out in the streets to protest. Conferences and rallies were held in the city of Krasnoarmeysk, where categorical protests were made against autonomy on the Volga. Delegations went to Moscow and to the USSR Supreme Soviet.

So the commission of the Supreme Soviet of the country arrived in Saratov once more at the end of October 1989. Broader official meetings were started with the local inhabitants. Leaders of the all-union society "Revival" [Vozrozhdeniye] also took part in them. Although the "sides" have still not come to an agreement today, a difficult dialogue has started. Several opinions follow.

Do Events Have To Be Speeded Up?

T. Veselova, engineer of the "Radon" plant, city of Marx, member of the permanent commission on Soviet German problems:

I read an article recently in the newspaper NEUES LEBEN by G. Vormsbakher one of the leaders of the "Revival" society, under the heading "How We Conceive the Restoration of the German ASSR." I did not agree with many of the opinions in it. Where are the differences? First, in the program itself. For example, the author sees the restoration of republic status for the Soviet Germans "on a level with the political and economic interests of the country." It seems to me to be the other way around: To resettle approximately 75,000 Germans there the country will require more than R2 billion [rubles]. And if a larger number of people decides to move, will our state be able to cope with such expenditures? And is there a need to speed up events? I think not. The process of migration should be natural. Because Germans are coming to us by themselves. Ten years ago they were counted by one's, and today by thousands.

[Correspondent] How many Germans are there in the Marksovskiy Rayon now?

[Veselova] Compared with the past, many, about 4,500. But it is not enough for autonomy—it is only 7 percent. But Vormsbakher nonetheless asserts that "a resolution of the question of the restoration of German autonomy on the Volga is not being complicated by anything.... It can be decided tomorrow if you like." In my opinion, this is a superficial approach. There may or may not be insoluble problems, but today there are unresolved problems beyond measure. At least this kind: Will the 23 nationalities living in the rayon want to suddenly change a traditional way of life that has existed for decades? Probably not. Perhaps again follow the strong-willed route? But the September (1989) CPSU Central Committee Plenum expressed itself unequivocally: No longer will the problems of one nationality be resolved at the expense of others. It means that the opinion of Vormsbakher "tomorrow if you like" does not agree with practical reality. I am convinced: People need time, and a broad study of public opinion and an honest constructive dialogue are necessary.

I quote further: "There is still another aspect of the restoration of an autonomous republic of Soviet Germans. Both the GDR and the FRG are already expressing a readiness to assist in this matter. It is doubtful whether it is worth refusing such possible assistance." The only thing that is obscure is precisely what kind of assistance and under what conditions. Or did the "good uncles" from the FRG just simply decide to help?

In this connection, the author proposes: "It would be possible in general in the republic to set up an experiment with the creation of a special economic zone." The idea somewhat explains the essence of the question. If it

is like the Chinese model, the free economic zones presume a border and a customs. Then this is now more comparable to a closed paradise for Soviet Germans that is created with the help of the FRG.

We have already had closed cities, and now we will live to see closed economic zones. Of course, it is much simpler to create a closed economic paradise for people of one nationality than tolerable socio-economic conditions for everyone. Somehow the reasoning about equality in a German autonomy does not sound convincing.

"There Is, in Fact, Nowhere to Retreat to..."

After "hot" meetings during trips around Saratov Oblast by G. Grout, the chairman of the "Vozrozhdeniye" society, we sound out his mood.

[Correspondent] Genrikh Genrikhovich, in meetings with work collectives of the city of Krasnoarmeysk you became familiar with the residents' point of view regarding the establishment of autonomy. What position will the "Revival" society take in its future work?

[Grout] When I spoke, I said at the time: We do not need an autonomy on the Volga which is attained by force. But as the question itself is stated, we have no alternatives. What is a two million German population to do without autonomy? Because no one objects to the political rehabilitation of the Soviet Germans. But it will not be complete if we do not receive autonomy. I was stunned by the individual instances of violent non-acceptance of this proposal. If the attitude continues to be formed so aggressively, then "Revival" will not be able to carry on any kind of work. It is senseless. Let this problem then remain on the conscience of the Russian people.

[Correspondent] More accurately, the Russian-speaking people. As you know, the people on the territory of the former German autonomy are multinational. In some measure, this complicates the problem.

[Grout] The resolutions "against," which were adopted in Marx and in Krasnoarmeysk, in my opinion, are underpinned by a powerful emotional factor. We understand that the social disorder and the economic difficulties of people automatically carry over to the problem of restoration of the republic. It is also apparent that no one has worked with the people here, and that no one has explained anything. Lack of information, as a rule, leads to disinformation. I was approached on the streets in Krasnoarmeysk by women who considered our problem with understanding. This means that not everyone thinks and speaks the same way. This encourages me somewhat. In the hall, as it happens, they voted hurriedly, in order to get home quicker. They were assembled after work. There were also cases of not wanting to listen to the other side. Germans had a difficult time deciding to speak. We did not expect to encounter such rejection.

[Correspondent] Are you giving up your intentions today, Genrikh Genrikhovich, to raise the problem of the autonomy of Soviet Germans?

[Grout] Putting the question away in a long drawer does not solve a problem. It is like keeping a sickness inside. We heard almost no well-reasoned arguments in the meetings against autonomy on the Volga. If it were proved to us, we would abandon our proposals.

What Is Better: A Village Soviet or Nothing?"

M. Kravchenko, machine operator of the sovkhos "Meliorator," Marksovskiy Rayon:

I do not intend to oversimplify the entire problem of the Soviet Germans. But, in my opinion, there is no dead end. We ourselves at times aggravate things with uncompromising demands. I think also that there is little use for polarized points of view. There is no need to hurry the resolution about the question of autonomy. They say it is necessary to restore immediately, and only the Volga German Republic. But this is unrealistic. We do not yet have enough of the main thing—Germans themselves—for a republic, or even for an oblast.

But for the time being why not establish national rayons or village soviets in places that are densely populated by Soviet Germans? One does not interfere with, contradict, or exclude the other.

Citizens of 12 nationalities live on our farm. But almost 70 percent are Germans. We all live and work amicably. No one asks anyone his nationality. Now, all you hear is: "It is necessary to restore justice." By all means! For example, let our sovkhos, inasmuch as a majority of the people is of German nationality, organize a German village soviet. Let them celebrate their own holidays, speak in their own language, and conduct cultural ceremonies. I myself, living in this village, will learn German. What is bad about this? But I think that the creation of an autonomous republic in the Volga area is premature. I want to look people who are living next to me openly in the face, not looking at the external features—whether he is a German, Kazakh, or a Russian.

"...There Are Many Reasons in Favor of Autonomy"

S. Zamogilnyy, senior research associate in the Saratov Polytechnical Institute and candidate of philosophical sciences:

The study of the deep bases of the functioning and development of national formations makes it possible to come to a harsh conclusion: Soviet Germans, "scattered" throughout the gigantic territory of the USSR and not having any mechanisms for reproducing language, culture, folklore, and tradition, will disappear. They will inevitably be assimilated, if urgent measures are not taken for their survival. In my opinion, this will be one of the most ignominious victories of a great people over a national minority.

A number of other reasons in favor of autonomy can be mentioned: Political, legal, economic, moral, and so forth. As far as the law is concerned, you see, no one ever abolished autonomy. From the standpoint of policy, the revival of German autonomy could become the first example of resolving a national problem under perestroika conditions. The effect of this would be colossal. I am deeply convinced that this question is easier to resolve precisely in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic owing to the deep national tolerance of the Russians, and their capacity for compassion. There is even no need to speak of morality—this would be an act of supreme humanitarianism.

But specifically about the international and economic aspects of the problem. The United States of Europe will be established in 1992 with a population of approximately 330 million people, super technology, and a very highly developed culture. Further to the east there are the GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Romania whose pace of restructuring will be much faster than in our country, and some of them will become more and more Europeanized. With what kind of baggage will we enter the European home? German autonomy is, in my opinion, "a window into Europe," a path to new technology, trends, and joint enterprises. In addition, to revive this kray—the arid lower Volga area—will not be possible according to the old way of doing things. There is a need for a fundamentally new economic model, and, perhaps, even some kind of special status.

I am not a romantic idealist and, because of the nature of my work, I am in contact with a lot of people who live in the "hot" region, and I see: The Russian-speaking residents do not want autonomy, and nothing will get them to change their minds. We have to take them into account. It would be surprising, if they did want it—under such pitiful working conditions, everyday living, housing, empty counters, the lack of normal leisure time, half-dilapidated schools, and a cultural life that is on the point of being at a standstill. The children and grandchildren of former war refugees have had problems up to their necks. But it is precisely at this plane—the economic one—that the problem of autonomy should be resolved. Only through the economy and its improvement can people become aroused today—Russians, and Tatars, and Kazakhs. And what is more, not simply to toss a billion or so from the state budget, but to give an opportunity to implement expanded production, to lower taxes, to carry out bold reforms in the area of property and the banking system.

Troop Withdrawal From Czechoslovakia Viewed

*PM0102170290 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS
in English No. 4, 28 Jan 90 p 3*

[Sergey Blagovolin article; "So, Do We Go?"]

[Text] History is fond of symbolic and instructive coincidences. The first round of talks on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia was held in Prague on the initiative of the Czechoslovak government. We all

know under what circumstances the troops were sent in in 1968. While the talks were in progress, Chairman of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia Alexander Dubcek, one of the main targets of the invasion by "allied armies", was awarded the Andrey Sakharov Prize by the European Parliament. All these years Dubcek refused to give up, refused to go back on his ideals. He is thus worthy of the Prize named after the great humanist. So all these things came together.

So how is one to assess the situation now that our troops are about to withdraw? Many people are wondering: "Will we really go? Is it really over?" But I'm convinced that this is just the beginning of a new era in our relations with our East European neighbours.

Developments there have literally overwhelmed everybody—both career politicians and ordinary citizens not only in this country but the world over. The regimes that seemed to guarantee us an "outer ring of security" have vanished in a matter of days. The only thing that kept them in place was the threat of a repeat of the Czechoslovak scenario in 1968. But then it was discovered that the USSR in its own painful transition to a democratic and stable society had proclaimed freedom of choice for the other countries and would not use tanks against these regimes anymore to underline the "irreversibility of the historical process". And all pretexts were destroyed. People rejected them all. So was this really a "ring of security" or was it a time bomb? I think it was a bomb, and powerful at that. Thank God it has finally been defused.

The situation should not be romanticized, of course. Most of the Warsaw Treaty countries are witnessing an increase in anti-communist and anti-Soviet sentiments. But is this a surprise? Didn't we for decades force on them the structures and governments that suited us? Didn't we remove (directly or indirectly) their really popular leaders? Think of Dubcek and many others whose lives have been tragedies.

The countries where our troops were stationed naturally developed fresh problems related to questions—which no one dared ask in the past—about the troops' ongoing role. Need these problems be dramatized? No grounds for that. First, the threat of a military conflict in Europe between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty has practically vanished. Second, all Warsaw Treaty countries have confirmed their intention to remain in this organization which, of course, has to be radically restructured (a similar overhaul is on NATO's agenda). Third, the expansion of the European process is becoming increasingly tangible. This means that instead of the old "security along the Western borders", we are gradually moving with the other countries towards real joint security.

As for practical matters concerning the presence of our troops in this or that country, they will be resolved based on the progress of the Vienna talks and the specific situation in each case.

Our troops in the GDR and their status there based on corresponding treaties are one thing. Our troops in Czechoslovakia are an entirely different thing. Our troops weren't there during the most troubled times in Europe in 1948, 1953, 1956 and 1961, and despite this, no one took advantage of this, so to speak. I don't know what the talks will bring: would all our troops be pulled out this year, as Czechoslovakia suggests, or will a longer withdrawal schedule be adopted. This is not likely to affect our security during the current, transitional period in Europe. In fact, 1990 is a much calmer year than 1961 in this regard. A similar development is likely also in Hungary which, incidentally, has no common border with any NATO country.

All these things are quite natural. The postwar era is over in Europe, and many of its symbols and features have either vanished or are gradually dissolving in the new European space. For us this is no loss but a real chance for a unique historic gain which can largely take care of our own problems, a chance to stop being Europe's bugbear and to become an integral part of it.

So are we leaving? Yes, we are leaving as uninvited guests. But we have every chance to create far more stable relations as good neighbours and reliable partners. Despite the bitter episodes. We have much in common with our East European neighbours. Many things which for years were drowned by the blare of trumpets and the screech of military parades. Once we talked about "going in order to stay". I would call this "going in order to return to Europe for good". This occurred to me while watching Alexander Dubcek on TV.

Shcherbakov Warns of Increasing Unemployment
*LD2301163790 Hamburg DPA in German 1318 GMT
23 Jan 90*

[Text] Frankfurt (DPA)—Rising mass unemployment will further increase the social tensions and nationality conflicts in the USSR. This danger to the democratic restructuring of society was pointed out by Vladimir Shcherbakov, chairman of USSR State Committee for Labor and Social Affairs, to newsmen in Frankfurt today. According to Professor Shcherbakov, the civil-war-like clashes between Azerbaijanis and Armenians are also primarily the result of growing unemployment.

He estimates the number of unemployed in Central Asia at 2 million, in Transcaucasia at 1 million. Precise figures are not available since unemployment has so far officially not existed in the Soviet Union. Next year a labor law will ensure that unemployment statistics will be available.

The minister also said that the dramatic reduction of manpower in Soviet industry, where already 10 percent of the workforce are considered superfluous, will considerably swell the ranks of the critics of perestroika. For that reason 3.5 million people have already been dismissed over the past 2 years. The whole of this "first

wave" went into retirement, Shcherbakov said. The "second wave," however, will also affect younger people.

Another problem is modernization and adapting the arms industry to producing consumer goods while at the same time trying to be profitable. The minister expects for the whole "social production" sector in the USSR—at present totalling 140 million workers—a cut in manpower of 15-17 million by the year 2000. "This will strengthen the position of the conservatives," he feared. The present negative effects of the economic reform has already resulted in the trade unions, many workers, and engineers distancing themselves from the course of the head of state and party leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Publisher Views Printing Problems, Press Law

*90US0434A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
17 Jan 90 Second Edition p 2*

[Article by V. Leontyev, director of PRAVDA Publishing House: "In Interests of Subscriber"]

[Text] If the proposed draft Law on the Press and Other Mass Media Means becomes law it will not be able to function fully unless radical steps are taken to provide a material-technical base for the press and to create new legal relationships between partners.

Just a year ago, all of us—readers, journalists, and publishers—rejoiced over the announcement of unlimited subscriptions to periodicals; we sincerely believed that its implementation would become a universal national economic matter, and that it would be a first step toward the Law on the Press. This did not happen. Only the established decentralized system of printing central newspapers in 57 locations around the country, with the transmission of page images over satellite and cable channels, is coping successfully with the publication of newspapers, and it has a reserve capacity.

The journal printing trades—both the departmental and also the USSR State Committee for the Press—are not prepared to work under conditions of unlimited subscription. There is no domestic printing equipment, especially for mass illustrated journals, and none is foreseen. The importation of machines cannot satisfy the requirements in full measure.

It is possible that not everyone knows, for example, that a piece of equipment for printing a weekly, color-illustrated, 60-page journal with a circulation of 5-6 million copies costs \$35 million (the prices were quoted by FRG and Italian firms last December). The simplest machine, which in one shift can print no more than 350,000 copies of a four-page newspaper, costs not less than a million dollars. To get the complete picture it is worth adding the following: In order to satisfy the paramount needs in newspaper-journal equipment, the publishing houses of the party organs will require R420 million [rubles] of hard currency appropriations in the 13th five-year plan.

The effect of the Law on the Press and Other Mass Media Means is tied directly to the provision of the necessary amount of paper to the publishing houses. According to preliminary data, the shortage of paper for newspapers in the country amounts to 152,000 tons, and for journals and books it is 210,000 tons. USSR Gosplan [State Planning Committee] intends to allocate 42,000 tons less newsprint to the PRAVDA Publishing House than is required by newspaper subscriptions, and the shortage of newsprint for the planned output of journals is 107,000 tons. All enterprises of the paper industry are still refusing to conclude contracts for the delivery of paper in the volumes that are necessary to print the subscribed circulation of periodical publications.

Under these conditions, it will hardly be possible to avoid increasing purchases abroad, especially of special sorts that are not produced by our native industry for mass illustrated journals. The shortened patchwork quilt of domestic and imported paper, even though it was stretched again by subscribers' desires for periodicals, did not cover the requirement, and now this has completely exposed book publishing.

The previously established Gosplan norm of a 45-day reserve of paper in newspaper printing locations is lowered this year to 29, but, in reality, it is five to seven days. Considering the interruptions in deliveries by railroad, the paper situation is justifiably acknowledged to be critical.

Finally, the USSR Ministry of Communications is withdrawing from the organization for dispatching periodical publications, transferring this to local communications organs, which have for a long time been unable to cope with the timely delivery of periodicals. According to the total subscriptions for 1990, compared with 1985, the one-time circulation of the journals RABOTNITSA and KRESTYANKA grew by a factor of 1.5 and, consequently, constitutes 23.8 and 21.8 million copies, respectively. The one-time circulation for this period of the journal SMENA increased by a factor of 2, OGONEK, by a factor of 3, and ZNAMYA, by a factor of 5.6. Even more convincing examples of rapid growth in the circulation of periodical publications will be found in other publishing houses whose printing must be decentralized. The attempts of the PRAVDA Publishing House to expand the printing of the continuously growing circulation of journals in the outlying areas run up against the incapacity of oblast technical production administrations of communications. The high concentration of the production of journals in Moscow infringes on the interests of readers and makes the distribution of journals more expensive. As a result, subscribers this year will not receive full sets of issues of public journals. Thus, the PRAVDA Publishing House is in a condition to issue only 10 of the 12 issues of the journal SMENA and 11 issues each of RABOTNITSA, KRESTYANKA, and ZDOROVYE. A further growth in circulation will lead to an aggravation of the situation. Should we not circulate mass journals abroad? These, probably, are not the most striking examples of the conditions that have

developed in the output of the periodical press under conditions of free subscriptions, given the strict limits and restrictions virtually on all material and technical resources. But they have to be taken care of, because these are not details that can be overlooked, especially since the question concerns a draft law that should serve for years.

At the same time, the system now in effect includes worked out contractual production-technical mutual relations between editorial staffs, publishing houses, and printing enterprises that are working in various combinations—from independent editorial staffs to publishing-production associations. The nature of these mutual relations, naturally, requires continuous improvement. In a word, the first steps are being taken this year to expand the intra-publishing cost accounting of editorial offices and to allot them monetary funds that are expended at the discretion of the work collectives.

The main limits to the output of periodical publications, it seems to me, are inherent first and foremost in the limitations of the material base, but not in the structure of the formations that exist now.

Let us turn to Article 4 of the draft law. Very likely a large publishing house can afford.... "to implement production and administrative activity under conditions of economic independence and cost accounting." What will this give the readers and the editorial staffs besides an increase in the managerial apparatus? Processes of various degrees of labor intensity and profitability are brought together in the publishing business. An editorial staff that will want to engage in production-administrative activity will be compelled to take on a whole series of administrative questions that are unusual for it. This will also further lead to a lowering of publishing professionalism, the dissipation of capital investments, and a slackening of work with printing trades, organs of communications, and other branches of the national economy.

Under conditions of economic independence a natural aspiration to increase the economic efficiency of operations could lead to a lowering of the ideological effect of publications, for they often contradict each other, as happens, for example, in creative unions. There is no special "Publishing House" section in the draft law where the rights and duties of a publishing house could be drawn up. This is not a bureaucratic superstructure, but a competent subdivision that participates in the materialization of the information process.

What question can there be about publishers providing guarantees for material-technical and financial support of the mass media systems (Article 15), if circulation, volume, and periodicity of a printed publication is determined by the editor (Article 24), and, consequently, the editorial office in this case is the owner of the newsprint? The concept of "Publishing House" is also excluded from the printed particulars about date and

place of publication (Article 18). It is proposed to indicate an address for inquiries.

A principally new and positive fact, which should be developed in future legally binding documents, is the contractual relation between the publisher and the founder. Finally, the publishing house will receive the right to select the technological profile of the publishing house and to take over the printing of that part of the circulation that corresponds to the capabilities of the printing base.

If Chapter 3 (dissemination of mass information) is adopted in the recommended form it will decisively destabilize an already complicated situation in the dissemination of mass media products. The USSR Ministry of Communications is relieved of the duties of a leading branch organization for the dissemination and delivery of the press. The responsibility for dissemination (Article 22) is entrusted only to the publisher, although with the involvement, on a contractual basis, of communications enterprises and citizens and associations of citizens, realistically under conditions of limited territories and low circulation. The dissemination of multi-million central publications should be the responsibility of the Ministry of Communications, but the relationship of the publisher to it, of course, will be built, as it is now, on principles of contractual cost accounting.

The Law on the Press, apparently, does not set up as an objective, and, indeed, it cannot seriously influence, the technical-economic aspect of the output and dissemination of publications. Its adoption without coordination with laws on property and on enterprises, and its separation from a market economy, will inevitably aggravate the difficulties of publishing periodicals that have developed in the system. The situation is also made more difficult by the fact that unlimited subscription to it is not reinforced by the necessary material resources, which, as formerly, are distributed according to severe limits.

At the same time, the need for a Law on the Press cannot be put off. Thus, perhaps, the draft law in its revision should be drawn up as an ideological draft, ridding it of administrative-economic questions? In doing this, the law would take on the status of a fundamental political document, and the administrative-economic questions would be given an intensive elaboration associated with national economic principles, but now on a level of legally binding documents of the USSR Council of Ministers and departments.

At various stages, many resolutions have been issued that were directed at creating a material-technical base for the press and at assuring the production and dissemination of periodical publications. The majority of them, unfortunately, have not been realized. It is possible that the Law on the Press and Other Mass Media Means will be the legal basis for their resolution.

Supreme Court Exonerates More Stalin Victims

LD0102233490 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—At a plenary meeting here, the USSR Supreme Court closed the cases of 240 people subjected to unjustified repressions in the 1930s, 1940s and early 1950s. All of them have been exonerated.

The Supreme Court told TASS today that the largest groups of newly rehabilitated people were those convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation" and "terrorist intentions" in regard to Joseph Stalin.

The plenum also cleared several former servicemen who, after having been captured by Germans during the Second World War, worked as interpreters or in household jobs.

They had all been accused of high treason.

The plenum admitted that there was no corpus delicti in their actions.

The sentences meted out to former servicemen repressed on charges of involvement in a "military-fascist plot" were annulled. All the cases were closed.

The Supreme Court described the cases as forgeries made up by Interior Ministry and state security bodies.

Conference Discusses Azov Sea Ecology

PM3001145390 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
26 Jan 90 Morning Edition p 1

[S. Alekseyev report: "Sea of Azov Must Be Saved"]

[Text] Crimean Oblast—An all-union conference has opened in Kerch to examine the question of urgent measures to normalize the ecological situation in the basin of the Sea of Azov.

Everyone knows that the sea's health has been seriously undermined recently and its productivity has fallen to a critical point.

Representatives of the country's State Committee for Environmental Protection, scientists, leaders of fishery enterprises in six of the region's oblasts and Krasnodar Kray, and members of informal organizations are participating in the work of the conference, which has been convened on the initiative of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Economic

Budget Chairman Outlines New Taxation Principles

LD0102221190 Moscow TASS in English 2115 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—By TASS parliamentary correspondent:

New taxation principles will be on the agenda of the USSR Supreme Soviet's third session planned to open on February 14.

The parliamentary committees and commissions are now completing the drafting of bills.

A big volume of work done has produced two bills: on citizens' income tax and profits tax on enterprises and organisations. Viktor Kucherenko, chairman of the Planning and Budgetary-Financial Commission of the Council of the Union (one of parliament's two chambers), said at a news conference held here today.

The parliamentarians have thus given up the bill on a unified taxation system earlier proposed by the government.

The new income tax principles, Kucherenko said, envisage the imposition of progressive taxation, a rise in tax-free income minimum and repeal of most of the tax cuts. Citizens will bear greater responsibility for tax evasion: the undeclared sum will be confiscated and a fine as large as the sum undeclared will be imposed.

The bill provides for a much larger circle of persons liable to fill in income declarations every year. Such declarations will become compulsory to all at the next stage of the taxation reform.

As to the bill on profits taxes levied on enterprises and organisations, it is based on the principle of compulsory tax paying by all, including profit earning institutions, which belong to public organisations, including the Soviet Communist Party, trade unions, Young Communist League, etc. In the USSR there is now no unified system in that sphere: enterprises of different industries pay different taxes, while some organisations are exempt from taxes at all.

It is planned to levy profits taxes on enterprises and organisations at the level of 55 per cent, Kucherenko said. It is planned to specify a system of tax cuts for encouragement, for instance, modernisation of production, introduction of ecologically pure technologies, development of small enterprises. Tax cuts are envisaged also for joint ventures.

The state tax inspection now being formed in the country will exercise control over the compliance with the new laws, it was noted at the news conference.

The new taxation principles are bound to become the mainstay for economic methods of managing the economy, Kucherenko said. But the discussion of the documents at the session will most likely be very difficult. In the opinion of the commission chairman, this will be so, since the ideas enshrined in them cannot but meet the resistance of many deputies who represent the interests of various groups of the population and a number of branches of the economy.

Economists Ponder Problems of Conversion

LD0102145690 Moscow TASS in English 1342 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—Economic restructuring and conversion problems in the Soviet Union were discussed by leading Soviet economists at a meeting of a bureau of the USSR Academy of Sciences' Economics Department. A brief account of the meeting was published in the latest issue of the USSR Academy of Sciences bulletin.

"Two main conversion problems stand out," Academician Abel Aganbegyan said in his speech. "The first involves restructuring the economy and technological development. The second problem deals with the economic mechanism for carrying out the conversion."

"Converting part of defence-related industry to civilian production is not enough," Academician Ivan Lukin said. "What is needed is to intensify investments. It is important for these funds to be invested into fundamentally new, more perfect productions. Hence the need to overhaul the civilian sector. It is impossible to fully satisfy consumer demand without considerable capital outlays."

Nikolay Petrakov, a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, cast doubt on plans to convert industries, engaged in military production, to the production of consumer goods.

"The scientific-technological potential that has been accumulated in these industries should not go to waste," he said. "There is no need to manufacture packaging automatic machines at aircraft-making plants. Let them manufacture competitive planes. Why can't we produce planes comparable with the Boeing 747, although we can manufacture excellent combat hardware?"

Winding up the discussion, Aganbegyan said that Soviet scientists are to draft a full-scale conversion programme for this year's U.N. Conference on Conversion, which will spell out ways to tackle these complex economic problems.

Agricultural

Incentives Needed To Lower Grain Imports

904B0124A Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian
27 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Osyshkin: "Resolving the Grain Problem"]

[Text] The depths of winter. The January frosts rage in some parts of the country while in others it is unusually mild. At this time the real grain growers are going out into the fields and visiting the seeds stores more often, and going to the workshops to put their equipment in good order. For spring is not far off, and it is the spring

that largely determines the fate of the harvest for the next year and for the 12th 5-Year Plan as a whole.

During the last season the farmers harvested 210 million tons of grain, which is considerably less than was planned. The drought that ravaged some regions in the east, and, what is worse, the mismanagement and irresponsibility seen in many places, had an adverse effect on results. Reliable barriers must be erected against both the former and the latter if we want to free ourselves of our bondage to the foreign market and provide for the needs of the state for this basic foodstuff through our own production. And there are opportunities available to do this. The experience of the leaders testifies convincingly to this.

Here are some of them. The comprehensive brigade of Mikhail Klepikov from the "Kuban" kolkhoz [collective farm] obtained 61.4 quintals of wheat per hectare, 71.6 quintals of corn for grain, and 678 quintals of sugar beets. In general, for Krasnodar Kray for many years the grain yields have above the 40-quintal mark. Grain harvests at many farms in Belorusia are on a par with the Kuban. The average yield here was 32 quintals per hectare. Grodno Oblast regularly obtains 37 to 40 quintals, while the Dyatlovskiy "Rossiya" kolkhoz, where M. Vasevich is the chief agronomist, obtains more than 50. And for the country as a whole, yields of 45 to 50 quintals have been obtained by 600 kolkhozes and sovkhoses [state farms]. More than 4,000 farms are close to this. Noticeable advances in grain production have been seen in the Ukraine, Stavropol, and Altay krais, and Rostov, Voronezh, Orel, and Ryazan Oblasts. And for the country as a whole grain production in the first four years of the 5-year plan has increased 20 million tons compared with the last 5-year plan.

In short, a growth trend has been seen, but no radical change has yet taken place. Year after year plans for the production and procurement of grain are not being met. The deficit remains high, and this forces the government to resort to major imports. Yields for grain crops have declined particularly in Chelyabinsk, Sverdlovsk, and Omsk Oblasts and in the Bashkir Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic [ASSR] and Udmurt ASSR. Drought has its effect, of course, but even there individual kolkhozes and sovkhoses are harvesting 20 to 30 quintals thanks to strict observance of technological conditions and adapting agricultural techniques to the extremes of weather.

How to escape more quickly from the stagnation in grain growing and make it the key factor in solving the food problem—these are the questions that are now of concern not only to workers' interest in the agrarian sector of our economy, but also all the people. It has already been reported in the press that the CPSU Central Committee Politburo has adopted a decision on the all-union grain program for the period 1991-95. Together with party, soviet, and economic organs and scientific institutions, the government is completing the preparation of this document, which is aimed at effecting a decisive turn in

development of the sector. The program will be comprehensive, considered in depth, and realistic for all levels of production, from the leaseholder through the kolkhoz and sovkhos to the rayon, oblast, kray, and republic and the entire Soviet Union. It takes account primarily of the task of a solicitous attitude toward the land and to improving its fertility on the basis of the most up-to-date technologies and agricultural equipment.

At the same time one of the main causes for the delay in developing grain farming has for a long time been the imperfect nature of the economic prerequisites. How much talk and how many proposals there have been about the need to improve the price mechanism! But the existing pricing system has created no priority for the grain complex. The grain complex finds itself in the most unfavorable position compared to other sectors. Introduction of the profitability allowances for grain in 1988 resulted in a rise of only two percent—10 times lower than for other kinds of agricultural produce. The material and financial injections for above-plan sales also failed to help; many farms were simply denied it. For a number of reasons the sense of responsibility on the part of kolkhoz and sovkhos leaders for fulfilling state orders for grain sales for the state reserves has declined. Last year only 60 million tons were bought in—less than in any year in the past three 5-year plans.

Because of this a change is needed in the economic mechanism for the relations in grain growing, and a new price and pricing system must be introduced, and there must be improvements in planning, the procurement and use of grain, and farming investment policy, and conditions must be created for accelerated scientific and technical progress and intensification in the production and processing of grain in order to ensure proper formation of the state grain and fodder reserves, reserves for internal consumption, and temporary reserves.

Many other factors aimed at the intensive development of growing grain are beginning to come into play. Farming and land improvement systems and systems to protect against soil erosion and degradation are being improved. Provision has been made for a build-up in the production of corn for grain, leguminous and oleaginous plants, and root crops. Measures have been outlined for significant improvements in selection work and organizational restructuring in seed growing for grain crops, and the development of agricultural machine building.

All these measures are evoking great interest among workers in the agroindustrial complex and are becoming a major incentive in the countryside, and they will promote a further build-up in the production and procurement of grain and other products. Accelerated work on and adoption of the "Grain" program has already helped this year in taking a major step toward realizing the plans that have been outlined and in creating adequate food supplies in the country. Now, during this pre-spring period, it is essential to do everything possible to carry out winter agricultural measures successfully and complete the preparations for the sowing.

One of the main reserves for increasing gross grain harvests and adding to the country's grain resources is good seeds. Adequate quantities have been distributed to the kolkhozes and sovkhozes but the quality of seed stocks still leaves much to be desired. Whereas in the Ukraine and in Belgorod, Voronezh, Kursk, and Volgograd Oblasts virtually all seeds for grain and leguminous crops meet the requirements of sowing quality, in Kalinin, Smolensk, Tula, and Perm Oblasts more than one-fourth of their reserves must still be classified in the latter category. There are still few first- and second-class seeds, which, as is known, insure stable and firm germination and good yields. Much work remains to be done with seeds for rice, buckwheat, millet, peas, and corn. Exchange operations must be accelerated and the grain delivered to the farms.

Increased yield is linked inseparably to higher soil fertility and the application of fertilizers to the soil. Everything is still not favorable in this regard. As was noted at a recent session of the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, one in every two hectares has low fertility, one in every five has a high level of acidity, and one in four is salinated. The Chernozem lands—our great wealth—are in a critical state. Humus reserves in the soil are declining. This is why on many farms it is essential to show special concern for the addition of organic material. Only 4.5 tons of organic fertilizer are being applied per hectare of land, but to solve the problem it needs three or four times more. Whereas in Belorussia a hectare of land receives up to 20 tons of organic fertilizers, in a number of oblasts in the Volga region and Kazakhstan the figures are five or ten times less. And indeed how can the land be fertile when poor use is being made of animal dung, peat, sapropelic material, and other agents that increase soil fertility? Liming of acid soils is slow in a number of oblasts and autonomous republics of the non-Chernozem zone.

The material-technical base for machine building in the sector is being strengthened by retooling in the grain complex. Here special attention is being given to improving technical maintenance and providing farms with spare parts and assemblies and enhancing the responsibility of manufacturing plants for quality and technical servicing of machines. One subject of special concern is the delivery of equipment for intensive technologies, post-harvest processing, and the storage and processing of grain at kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Now it is important to complete repairs to equipment more quickly for the work ahead and not to permit breakdowns of units in the fields.

The increasing reductions in the areas sown to grain are a cause of great concern. In the past 10 years areas sown to wheat have shrunk 13 million hectares, while the figure for barley is 1.8 million hectares. Last year grain and leguminous crops (not counting corn) were harvested from only little over 100 million hectares. The economists have calculated that if areas sown to grain crops had been maintained at the 1977 level (130.3 million hectares), then during the period 1986-88, with

an average yield of 17.8 quintals per hectare the gross grain harvest would have been 232 million tons. This would have made it possible to obtain 79 million tons more grain and halt grain imports. Unfortunately, however, this did not happen. There has been virtually no increase in the country's reserves of fodder, to which a considerable proportion of land is sown, but, along with other kinds of losses, there is a real and enormous grain shortage. And the practice of mass expansion of the areas of clean fallow has not justified itself everywhere.

I think that farm leaders and specialists and brigades and links must already this year move carefully toward defining the structure of sown areas at kolkhozes and sovkhozes and adopt the view that is most fully in line with current technologies and agrotechnical requirements and insures maximum grain yield not only per hectare sown but throughout the entire crop-rotation area. In everything what is needed is realism and common sense, and proper consideration of special local features and weather, agrotechnical and organizational factors.

Agro-Industrial Complex Data Reveals Shortfalls

LD0102134290 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian
1200 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] We have already reported the preliminary results of the last agricultural year in various regions. Now we can tell you of the final results throughout the country.

According to figures of the Soviet State Committee for Statistics, the total volume of production of the agro-industrial complex grew by nearly 2 percent. But the envisaged growth of gross production was not achieved. Nevertheless, labor productivity increased by 5 percent, with a reduction in the number of workers by 700,000 persons. The number of loss-making farms was reduced: There are now nearly 1,500, that is, 3 percent of all collective and state farms.

The creation of peasant farms has begun. In Latvia there are now nearly 4,000; in Lithuania, just over 1,000; and in Estonia, 800. The private farmers' movement is in progress in the Russian Federation, the Ukraine, and other union republics.

The country's harvest last year saw an increase in production of grain: 196.4 million tonnes was obtained, nearly 16 million more than last year.

There was also an increase in the production of potatoes and sunflower seed. A big crop of sugar beet was gathered, but less vegetables, grapes, cotton, and some other crops were obtained. The fall in production and deliveries of vegetables was especially noticeable in Georgia, Armenia, Lithuania, and Moldavia.

Production of the main animal husbandry products changed: For instance, in Latvia, Tajikistan, Lithuania and Armenia, meat production fell, and in Georgia, Azerbaijan and Estonia, milk production fell, although

in the country as a whole, annual milk yields grew by 74 kg, with the average milk yield per cow approaching 3,000. To be precise it amounted to 2,854 kg. Average meat consumption per person reached 67 kg.

It should be noted that in the different regions of the country a big contrast can be observed. Very importantly, the plan for supplies to the all-union fund of meat, milk, and wool, compared with the previous period, grew, but the annual plan was not fulfilled. Those who most lagged behind were the animal husbandmen of Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Belorussia, and Ukraine. One is especially alarmed by the reduction of the herds of cattle and sheep in the republics of the Transcaucasus, Volgograd, Kuybyshev, Chelyabinsk, and some other oblasts.

Scientific

Further Reportage on Progress of Space Flight

1 Feb Activities

LD0102143490

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1230 GMT on 1 February carries a 20-minute video report from the Flight Control Center on the cosmonauts' activities. Correspondent Petr Orlov says the cosmonauts' extravehicular activity is continuing; they have now been out in space for 4 hours 16 minutes. He speaks to a doctor, who gives details of the cosmonauts' blood pressure readings and says they are in good health.

Correspondent Sergey Slipchenko then interviews (Guy Ilyich Severin), whom he describes as head of the enterprise which made the space armchair. (Severin) says the need for an autonomous unit for cosmonauts to move around in space was identified when S.P. Korolev was alive and in charge of the space program, and he continues: "In 1965, the works collective embarked on building the first systems for movement and maneuvering of cosmonauts. Such a system was built and tested in 1966, and we planned to test it on craft of the 3KD series, or Voskhod-2." He then states that they were, however, ahead of their time, and the system could not be located on the spacecraft. And Korolev's untimely death also had its influence.

Orlov then talks to a communications officer, who says that Serebrov is still in the Sredstvo Peredvizheniya Kosmonavta [SPK], the correct name for the flying armchair, with Viktorenko near the exit hatch monitoring operations. The SPK is working fine. Television pictures should be coming in at 1547 Moscow time. The communications officer tells the cosmonauts that live television transmission is in progress, and that viewers are cheering for them; the cosmonaut cracks a joke in reply. Following this, Slipchenko speaks to (Severin) again. He says that the SPK is neither a chair nor a bike, but a mini-spacecraft. Asked if it is worth the money spent on it, (Severin) says that too often in Russia's and

the Soviet Union's past they have been ahead of the world with a new development, and have given it up only to see it taken up in other countries, and then had to try to catch up again. He is happy with the performance of the SPK so far, and notes that Serebrov's comments have been positive.

Orlov, back at the armchair, which he showed in the 1045 bulletin, says that it works on compressed air. The cosmonauts added a remote control switch for the television camera mounted off the right shoulder. Television pictures from space should be coming up soon. Serebrov is to go 20 metres from station, using high-speed operation [forsirovanny rezhim].

The video then shows the control room as the cosmonauts are heard counting off distance telemetry. Slipchenko talks to (Severin) again, and says Serebrov is going further than the 20 meters planned. Serebrov reaches 25 meters. Orlov points out the controls on the right-hand arm rest used to fix position in space. As the reportage ends, Serebrov is situated 33 meters from the station according to telemetry, but no television pictures are coming in.

Report on Space Walk

LD0102165290

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1030 GMT on 1 February broadcasts a report by correspondent Vladimir Bezyayev from the Flight Control Center on today's space walk. Bezyayev reports that Viktorenko and Serebrov's trial is the first means of moving a spaceman in open space. The test was conducted by Serebrov, flight engineer, while Viktorenko took video pictures. Bezyayev reads out figures at the flight control center: time of stay in outer space was 4 hours, 46 minutes. First Serebrov took small steps from the station, only moving 5 meters, then the main modes of movement of the flying armchair were tried out.

Bezyayev says that with the appearance of massive objects in orbit there came the need for repair and installation work, and hence the need of means of moving about. "Designers from Zvezda Machine-Building Works started making the flying armchair and today we can congratulate them on their debut. Its mass is 200 kg, it can work in space 6 hours, the same duration for which the new space suits—the Orlan DMA—are designed for work in open space. Now we see that they have been in open space for 4 hours, 49 minutes and everything is going according to plan. The next walk in space is planned for 5 February."

More on Walk

LD0102163390

[Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1100 GMT on 1 February broadcasts an "update on space walk" in which the announcer says:

"As we have already reported, the crew of the Mir orbital complex is now conducting tests on an autonomous means of conveyance for cosmonauts. Here are the details from our special correspondent at the Flight Control Center Vladimir Bezyayev."

Bezyayev says: "Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov are continuing to test the autonomous means of conveyance for cosmonauts.... This flying armchair is being directly tested by Aleksandr Serebrov. Now the Flight Control Center has given Aleksandr Serebrov a few minutes of breathing-time. The work is going ahead intensively. The main stage in the testing has now started. In keeping with the program, there should be tests on short distances away from the station at high speed. I shall explain that this flying armchair has two operation speeds—an economical one and a high speed one.

"It is probably appropriate to describe this means of conveyance for cosmonauts, all the more so, since the journalists here have just been introduced to the developers of this technology. We have learned very many interesting things. I shall try to convey these to you, too. The fact is that in principle it would seem to be the Americans who take precedence in using various transport installations in space. Testing was carried out in 1984 on Challenger, which was destroyed 2 years later—but it turns out that we have been developing a facility like this for a long time. When it was not needed the work was stopped temporarily and then resumed in later years.

"At the present time we have a means of conveyance for cosmonauts. How does it differ from that of the Americans? First, ours is more powerful. Its tractive and loading power is one and half times greater. That is, with its aid one can transfer more cargoes, and that is very important."

Bezyayev adds that there is such a concept as a speed specifications reserve. "That is, if all the valves are fully opened—and the operating body of this flying armchair is ordinary compressed air—then at the end of acceleration it will reach a speed of 30 meters per second. The American means of conveyance can only do 20 meters per second."

He says tests are now being carried out on the winch, not for physical insurance, "but for moral insurance for the cosmonauts. Evidently the winch will still be used directly at many of the exits of the Mir orbital complex. Now they have told us that Buran will be equipped with such means of conveyance as well. Spaceships of the Buran and Shuttle types have many possibilities for maneuvers in orbit. There the winch will simply not be necessary. The station flies on such a fixed course and can only allow itself rotation."

TASS Report

LD0102183990 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT
1 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow February 1 TASS—Special TASS correspondent reports from the Mission Control Centre:

In accordance with the flight's programme Soviet Cosmonauts Aleksandr Viktorenko and Aleksandr Serebrov completed their fourth space walk on board the orbital complex Mir. They tested a new autonomous vehicle. The vehicle was brought to the station aboard "Kvant-2" module.

It is an apparatus shaped like a knapsack. It has jet engines operating on compressed air.

The vehicle is equipped with autonomous systems of power supply, movement control and radio-telemetric measurements.

The vehicle also has a special juncture for link-up with the dock which the cosmonauts installed during their previous venture into open space.

Aleksander Serebrov today operated the vehicle in open space. Before the space walk the cosmonauts put on their space suits. The flight engineer assumed the place in the vehicle and fastened himself to it. At eleven hours 15 minutes Moscow time [0815 GMT] the hatch of the airlock of Kvant-2 module was open and the cosmonauts walked out into space. At the hatch, the cosmonauts linked up the vehicle to the dock and switched into working position its panels with control instruments.

The tests were conducted in several stages. At first the flight engineer checked the functioning of all the systems of the vehicle, and then undocked.

Controlling the functioning of the engines, Serebrov moved away from the orbital complex to various distances, manoeuvred in space, made turns and moved on various planes. He moved away from the hatch as far as to 33 metres.

After completing the planned tests, both cosmonauts returned to the airlock. The crew worked in open space for 4 hours 59 minutes.

The functioning of the vehicle has been tested. Its easy operation and good manoeuvrability were confirmed.

A safety line was used so that the vehicle remains in touch with the orbital complex.

During all the stages of work in open space, the commander constantly controlled the flight engineer's actions.

Further tests of the autonomous vehicle are planned for February 5. The vehicle will be operated by the crew's commander.

Viktorenko and Serebrov feel well. Work on the orbit continues.

Purpose of 'Armchair' Walk

LD0102155590

[Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 1045 GMT on 1 February broadcast a 10-minute "Slipchenko/Orlov Special Report From Flight Control on Armchair EVA." Slipchenko reports that the "Vremya" program has just showed live pictures of Serebrov moving 3-5 meters from the station. Video shows Flight Control Center's big display panel, then Slipchenko seated in viewing gallery. Slipchenko says that the armchair's navigation lights were first tested. Viktorenko monitored operations and fed corrections. "Work is continuing in the shadow at the moment," Slipchenko says. "According to the program, the cosmonauts were to have rested, but taking into account that this is the crew's fourth space walk, and the fact that they completed their previous work in open space ahead of schedule and worked very quickly and competently, they are being allowed to do certain operations in the dark zone," he says.

A video of the Flight Control Center display shows the duration of space walk so far as 2 and 1/2 hours. Slipchenko goes into the reasons why the flying armchair is needed: the Soviet space station does not have the U.S. shuttle's cargo bay to pick up a damaged satellite.

Slipchenko plays back recorded video of Serebrov moving away from the station; cosmonauts' voices are audible counting off the distance as the Serebrov, backlit and facing camera, first fills the frame, then recedes into darkness to a distance of five meters. Connecting rope is shown taut, later slackens as Serebrov tests motors to move up and down by a meter.

Slipchenko hands over to Petr Orlov, who shows viewers a flying armchair identical to the one in space, kept at Flight Control. Orlov picks up the rope attached to the bottom front of the chair; it is four millimeters in diameter. He removes a cover from the left-hand arm rest to expose the forward-reverse control lever and the micro-movement joystick. He points out four of the thrusters situated off the left shoulder. The chair has 16 main and 16 back-up thrusters. Orlov points out the docking unit located on the rigid seatbelt, promising to tell more about it in the next special bulletin. "In principle, this system is the foundation of the future work of this armchair, when it starts to fulfill not a test function, but a transport function," says Orlov "And I should tell you that the first work, not test work but research work, is planned for 5 February".

Orlov closes the bulletin. The announcer says the next special bulletin will be shown at 1530.

Research Ship Departs Trip to Antarctic

LD3101114890 Kaliningrad Maritime Press Service
in Russian 1530 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Summary] The scientific research ship Atlantnir has left for the Antarctic, taking oceanographers, hydrobiologists and other scientists who will study the biore-sources and ecosystem of the area, and also the distribution and stocks of krill, and possibilities for increasing catches of it. It will be joined by scientists on the Anchar and the Khronometr.

TASS Reports on Cosmos-2058 Blast Off

LD3101093190 Moscow TASS in English 0927 GMT
31 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow January 31 TASS—The Soviet Union blasted off another satellite, the Cosmos-2058, with a Tsiklon booster rocket on January 30, 1990.

The satellite carries scientific equipment for space explorations.

The satellite was put into orbit with the following parameters:

Initial period of revolution—97.8 min.

Apogee—678 km.

Perigee—650 km.

Orbital inclination—82.5 degrees.

In addition to scientific equipment, the satellite has a radio system for precise measuring of orbital elements and a radio system to transmit data about the operation of instrumentation and scientific equipment.

The satellite is operating smoothly.

The coordination computing centre is processing incoming information.

Military

'Kirov' Commander Denies Radiation Leak Reports

PM0102112190 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 31 Jan 90 First Edition p 2

[Telephone Interview with Captain Second Class V.I. Rogatin, commander of cruiser "Kirov," by Captain First Class D. Ilyuk, senior editor of Northern Fleet newspaper NA STRAZHE ZAPOLYARYA, under "Rumors and Reliable Sources" rubric: "'Kirov' Returns to Base"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Rumors have spread across Severomorsk, and indeed even farther, that there has been a radiation leak aboard the nuclear missile cruiser "Kirov," which is now returning ahead of schedule from a long-distance cruise, and that the crew have been exposed to radiation. Capt

First Class D. Ilyuk, senior editor of the Northern Fleet newspaper NA STRAZHE ZAPOLYARYA, contacted the ship by ship's wireless.

"Captain Second Class Rogatin, cruiser commander, speaking."

[Ilyuk] Vladimir Ivanovich, what truth is there in the rumors about an unfavorable and alarming radiation situation aboard your ship? It is being said that something happened to the nuclear reactor which has resulted in the cruiser's early return home.

[Rogatin] Well, the "Kirov" seems to attract rumors. No doubt you will remember how KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA spread a rumor that we had suddenly turned up in the region of Iceland, whereas in fact we were in our base at that time.

On your question specifically I can say that the condition of the ship and its main power unit—the nuclear unit—is normal and enables the "Kirov" to perform its usual tasks. All the crew members are alive and well.

[Ilyuk] But you are returning early nonetheless. Is there a reason for that?

[Rogatin] Higher command has decided that the ship should return because a gas leak was suddenly discovered in section one of the number one steam generating unit at the beginning of January. We took that unit out of service. Even so, the radiation situation was and remains normal. The gamma background aboard the cruiser is within the natural background limits. Therefore, there is no threat to the ship or the life or health of the crew.

People may ask: Why was the unit taken out of service then? The answer is that it was to guarantee that the gas leak wouldn't develop further. With the kind of leak that we had the operating instructions allow the steam generating unit to be used. But this is peacetime and the command decided to completely preclude all unforeseen eventualities, all risk. When the ship has returned to base industrial representatives will remedy the fault.

[Ilyuk] Vladimir Ivanovich, you said that everyone aboard the ship is healthy. But has no one fallen ill among the cruiser's several hundred crew members?

[Rogatin] Yes, I wasn't being completely precise, there are sick people on board, but their ailments have nothing to do with radiation. There are seven people in the sick bay: three with catarrhal infections, two with fungal growths on the skin, one with hypertonia, and one with a bruised finger. I could give you their names.

[Ilyuk] I don't think that's necessary. I should like to hear how the crew feels about returning home, how the sailors greeted the early recall.

[Rogatin] In short, they are cheerful, as you'd expect. Although many of them do feel a certain dissatisfaction, of course—after all, they weren't able to completely carry out their tasks.

[Ilyuk] One last question. What wishes do you have for the families and friends of the crew?

[Rogatin] First, that they shouldn't believe rumors. Second, that they shouldn't be concerned for us, everything is in order here. And third, get ready to meet us.

[Ilyuk] I wish you a successful return to base.

General M.V. Adekov Dies in Road Accident

PM0102154790 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 1 Feb 90 First Edition p 4

[Obituary of M.V. Adekov]

[Excerpts] Major General Mikhail Vasilyevich Adekov has died tragically in a road accident while performing his official duties. [Passage omitted]

He traveled the path from private to general, from a cadet in a training subunit to first deputy chief of a USSR Defense Ministry central directorate. In 1984 he successfully graduated from the USSR Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy. [Passage omitted]

[signed] M.A. Moiseyev, V.I. Varennikov, N.A. Moiseyev, A.V. Betekhtin, D.A. Grinkevich, A.A. Galkin, A.A. Demidov, S.A. Mayev, V.M. Mikhalkin, M.Ye. Penkin, V.P. Kuznetsov, Yu.T. Chesnokov, I.M. Titov, S.V. Petrov, V.V. Kazakov, V.S. Kavunov, A.D. Kuntsevich, A.G. Ponomarev, R.F. Razuvanov, V.T. Zabornya, V.I. Bukhtoyarov, I.B. Yevstafyev, N.S. Shapovalenko.

Lizichev Addresses Veterans Council Plenum

PM0102152590 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 28 Jan 90 Second Edition p3

[Own correspondent report: "Plenum Ends Work"]

[Text] The Moscow plenum of the All-Union Council of War and Labor Veterans discussed and adopted the program for preparing and holding celebrations to mark the 45th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War and heard a report and statements from a series of USSR people's deputies from the All-Union Veterans Organization on the discharging of their duties as deputies. They discussed and adopted an address to the USSR Supreme Soviet on the draft USSR Law on Pensions for Citizens in the USSR, and also a letter to veterans of war, labor, and the Armed Forces, and to young people, and all inhabitants of Azerbaijan and Armenia calling on them to bring their stances as close together as possible in order to achieve mutual understanding and accord.

The plenum was addressed by Army General A. Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy. A USSR people's deputy was elected to fill a vacated seat.

Representatives of the CPSU Central Committee, All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, All-Union Lenin Communist Youth League Central Committee, and USSR Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Air Force, and Navy Central Committee took part in the plenum's work.

The plenums participants paid their respects and laid flowers at the grave of K.T. Mazurov, the first chairman of the All-Union War and Labor Veterans Council.